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Japan

126th Regular Diet Session Begins 22 Jan

Text of Miyazawa Policy Speech

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[Speech by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to the 126th regular Diet session at the main chamber of the House of Representatives in Tokyo—live]

[Text] I am pleased to be able to report that a decision has recently been made on the crown prince's engagement, so anxiously awaited by all the people, and I would like, together with the people, to extend my sincere congratulations to the new couple. This happy news heralds a bright future for Japan, and I am confident that the bonds of affection between the imperial household and the people will become even stronger as a result.

We are now in the midst of a historic transition such as the world has not seen for decades.

The cold war between East and West is over, and the tide of history has turned toward peace. Just as this situation has raised grave issues of how best to structure a new order for peace in the international community, it has also induced major changes in the circumstances affecting Japanese foreign policy and Japan's own position within the international community. Japanese behavior today has come to have a major impact on the international community as a whole, and it is imperative that we assume a positive role and responsibilities for the establishment of this new order for peace commensurate with our enhanced national strength. My discussions with the ASEAN leaders during my recent tour of that region reminded me anew of the great expectations that other countries have for Japan in international contributions.

Japan's economic situation is now very grim. The people are sincerely hoping for economic recovery, and recovery is an urgent issue demanding a concerted effort by both the government and the private sector. At the same time, it must be noted that popular values are moving away from our growth-oriented and efficiency-first traditions toward a new emphasis on leisure, peace of mind, social equity, and justice. As well as working for the earliest possible economic recovery, it is imperative that we move steadily toward the creation of an economy and a society in which each and every person can feel comfortable and satisfied with his or her life.

These changes in the international environment and popular awareness demand changes in the entire socioeconomic system created since the war, and it is politics that must take the lead in this effort.

I believe it is truly most regrettable that the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal should have sparked widespread popular distrust of politics at this time. It is obviously important to uncover the truth of this case, but even more important to fully restoring popular trust of politics, is that we promote political reform for a political structure that truly reflects the popular will, and that these efforts achieve specific, tangible results. It will not be easy to outgrow the political and administrative systems that we have grown familiar and comfortable with over the nearly half a century since the war and to achieve reforms. This will require courage, determination, and the resolute will to succeed. Political reform is the starting point for all of our other reforms.

Japan has experienced a number of major upheavals in the past, but each time we have been able to take the initiative with reforms to clear the way for new development. Japan is again in the throes of upheaval, and I am confident that we will be able to effect the necessary reforms and to lay the foundations for new development in the 21st century.

Outward-looking reforms for Japanese-initiative international contributions for a global order for peace, inward-looking reforms to create a better quality of life at home commensurate with the changes in Japanese Government as well as individual and corporate thinking and behavior, and, prerequisite to both, reforms to create politics worthy of the people's trust—these are the three pillars upon which I want to promote change in Japan.

The end of the cold war has meant a global acceptance of the values of freedom, democracy, and market mechanisms advocated by all of the free world countries. Yet at the same time, the end of the cold war has also been accompanied by the emergence of such new issues as worsening ethnic, religious, and other regional strife and the proliferation of nuclear armaments and other weapons of mass destruction. In addition, poverty in the developing countries, the global environment, and other issues affecting all of humankind are also increasingly urgent concerns. Indeed, it must be said that this is the true time of testing for the West's basic ideology [rinen].

Japanese postwar policy has consistently been one dedicated to peace and to attaching central importance to the United Nations. These ideals are now within reach as military force's relative importance in global politics is on the decline, and as we search for a new international order to replace the old East-West conflict. The United Nations has worked vigorously to preserve world peace since the cold war's end, and it is imperative that Japan take an active part in these efforts in a number of ways, including personnel contributions. As a first step, a large number of people sent from Japan under the international peace cooperation law are now toiling in the cause of Cambodian recovery. I salute these people.

Likewise, the situation in Somalia is a humanitarian emergency and we cannot sit by watching idly. Japan has already dispersed 100 million U.S. dollars to the UN trust fund for Somalia, and it has the further responsibility continue to do all it can to contribute to such United Nations-based international efforts.

Arms control and disarmament are increasingly important with these changes in the international situation. Major progress was recently made for peace for all humankind when the United States and Russia reached agreement on dramatic cuts in their strategic nuclear forces. At the same time, however, there is justified concern about the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and it is imperative that all due caution be exercised so that the transfers of conventional arms do not destabilize regions. Taking an active part in international efforts to strengthen the nonproliferation regime for all weapons of mass destruction, Japan intends to continue to call for all countries to join, inter alia, the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

Responding to the global relaxation of tensions, the Government of Japan late last year reviewed the mid-term National Defense Program one year earlier than scheduled and decided to cut defense spending during the period of the program by 580 billion yen. It goes without saying that we will continue, under the present peace Constitution and in accordance with the fundamental principle of maintaining an exclusively defense-oriented policy, to make every effort to build the necessary minimum defense capability.

Even as the world moves steadily toward peace, we cannot ignore the fact that heightened poverty, economic stagnation, and other difficulties continue to get worse in many of the developing countries. Likewise, the introduction of democracy and market economies in the former Soviet Union and other formerly socialist countries has been accompanied by numerous difficulties. Now that the East-West conflict is over, it is imperative that Japan deal earnestly with such areas as North-South issues and support for reforms in the former socialist economies. This means not simply providing aid for the developing countries commensurate with our economic ability in line with Japan's official development assistance charter but contributing to the solution of such global issues as environmental degradation, refugees outflows, population pressures, the AIDS epidemic, and illicit drugs and responding on a priority basis, mindful of international political realities. At the same time, we must contribute internationally by ensuring the flow of funds to the developing countries for world economic revitalization and must actively promote "intellectual assistance" such as the transfer of our accumulated technology and know-how.

Japan's economic development owes much to the maintenance of the international free trading system, and there can be no disagreement with the idea that the maintenance of this free trading system is prerequisite to continued economic development not only in Japan but worldwide. If the GATT Uruguay Round negotiations end in discord, that could spur the rise of protectionism and have a grave impact upon the global economy. Japan is thus determined to join together with the other leading countries in continuing to work for an early and successful conclusion of the negotiations. While agriculture is an area in which all countries face difficult problems, I intend to make the utmost efforts for a solution based upon mutual cooperation under our basic policy.

I recently visited the four countries of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Brunei, where I exchanged views with the leaders of these countries on how we should shape the cooperation between Japan and the ASEAN countries, our hopes for the future of the Asia-Pacific region, and what role Japan should play in this regard.

This Asia-Pacific region has become increasingly important, both politically and economically, since the collapse of the cold war structure. It is indispensable for world peace and prosperity that this region maintain its stability and continue its dynamic economic development. Characterized by historical, cultural, and social diversity, and at different stages of development, the countries of the Asia-Pacific region have been able to sustain their economic development because they respected their differences and were willing to learn from and compete with each other within an open, free trading system. Ensuring that this respect for diversity and this openness continue is crucial to maintaining the peace and prosperity of the region as a whole, and it is important that these qualities develop globally.

As well as promoting political and security dialogue within the region, Japan will thus work to expand its economic cooperation, including support for environmental conservation and human resources development, and will work as one within the region for region-wide peace and prosperity. In so doing, it goes without saying that, based on remorse over its past history, Japan will approach these countries in good faith and humility.

Japan-China relations are progressing steadily in a number of areas. For Japan's part, we will continue to support Chinese efforts for political and economic reform so as to facilitate closer cooperation between China and the rest of the international community.

Japan intends to pursue its policies toward the Korean peninsula around the core of strengthening the friendly relations with the Republic of Korea. I intend to work to build future-oriented relations with that country through continued close dialogue, as with President-elect Kim Yong-sam due to be inaugurated in February. Regarding North Korea, with the suspicions regarding the development of nuclear weapons not yet cleared up and the outlook for the normalization of relations still opaque, we will continue to adhere firmly to our basic principles, and to negotiate steadfastly while liaising with the other countries concerned.

President Clinton was sworn in as President of the United States this January 20. In his inaugural speech, the new President expressed the need to renew the United States, and stated his resolve to maintain U.S. leadership in the international community. I very much welcome the fact that the United States is going to make an earnest effort under this young and intellectual new leader to revitalize its economy and to address the other domestic issues that it faces, as well as to maintain its engagement in shaping a new world order.

International cooperation is indispensable for the solution of the problems facing the post-cold war world, and it is no exaggeration to say that the outlook for the world going into the 21st Century will largely depend on whether or not Japan and the United States, together accounting for about 40 percent of world GNP, are able to provide coordinated leadership under a shared vision. Furthermore, the American presence and involvement are becoming more important than ever for securing stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and it is imperative that Japan, in playing a greater role in this region, maintain closely cooperative relations with the United States. In addition to their shared values, Japan and the United States are closely interdependent in a wide range of fields, including the Japan-U.S. security arrangements. Building upon this foundation, I intend to address bilateral economic issues expeditiously and properly and to join hands with the United States for the building of a new order for peace.

The EC achieved market integration this January 1. In addition, vigorous efforts are being made to gain ratification of the Maastricht Treaty and the EC is becoming increasingly important in the international community. For Japan, the EC is an important friend sharing the same values, and I intend to deepen our dialogue and coordination in both the political and economic spheres.

Russia currently faces a host of political and economic problems accompanying reform, but it is in the best interests not only of Japan but of the entire international community that these reforms be advanced and that the northern territories issue be resolved on the basis of law and justice and Japan-Russia relations be fully normalized. In keeping with this realization, I want to pursue our foreign policy toward Russia in line with our consistent policy so as to develop balanced Japan-Russia relations.

Iraq has repeatedly violated the United Nations Security Council resolutions, despite the oft-stated grave warnings issued by the United Nations and the rest of the international community. Japan thus understands and supports the measured use of force by the U.S., British, and French coalition against Iraq to ensure compliance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

The economic summit of the major industrial countries will be held in Tokyo this July. This will be the first economic summit to be held in Asia since the end of the cold war, and it will also be a crucial conference where Japan's stance on building an international order for peace will be tested. As chairman, I am determined to do everything possible to see that this summit is successful in further strengthening policy coordination among the leading industrial countries for global economic recovery and the resolution of other issues and in enabling us to show the way to a brighter future for the whole world.

Although there are signs of promise in housing investment, public works investment, and some other sectors, ordinary household consumption is stagnant and the economy as a whole continues to be sluggish, including a harsh operating climate for small business owners, self-employed people, and other businesses. Added to this, assets were sharply deflated when the so-called bubble collapsed and there is concern about the financial institutions' weakened ability to respond to financing demand and the stability of the entire financial system, all of which is having an actual impact on the real economy.

The government has moved with maximum flexibility to respond to this situation and has, for example, enacted emergency economic measures last March including accelerated implementation of public works and other projects and drafted the largest package of economic measures in our history last August, including measures to expand domestic demand and to ensure the stability of the financial system.

In drawing up the draft budget for FY 1993, we have sought to pay full heed to the state of the economy and to build upon these efforts by providing for the largest percentage increase in recent years in public works and other investment, including not only the government's own public works spending but also projects under the fiscal investment and loan plan and projects to be undertaken on the sole authority of local governments. In addition to also paying close attention to employment and taking flexible policy measures, including those to prevent unemployment and to promote employment, we are moving ahead with such carefully tailored small-business policies as stronger support for small businesses and efforts to enable small businesses to find the workers they need and to reduce working hours. At the same time, premised upon thorough-going management efforts for rationalization in the financial and securities sectors, I want to continue to work to ensure the stability of the financial system and to reinvigorate the securities markets.

Japanese business's vitality and inner strength have been proved by the way it has overcome previous trials. Given the Japanese economy's potential, there is no doubt that the government's policy efforts will generate new private-sector vigor and that the economy will soon move smoothly back to the path of noninflationary and sustained growth powered by domestic demand. Although there may be some who feel the pace is too slow because it will take some time for these policy results to be obvious for all to see, the government is determined to be vigilant in its efforts to monitor the economy closely and to respond flexibly so as to achieve the earliest possible sense of economic recovery. In this connection, I appeal for the prompt passage of the FY 1993 budget to buttress our march to recovery.

Within this harsh economic climate, companies are reviewing their management structures and making active efforts to deal with such structural issues as the change to patterns of corporate behavior appropriate to the 21st century and individuals are moving steadily toward creating simple life-styles in harmony with the environment. At the same time, the economic slump has depressed property values and facilitated progress in reducing working hours. It is imperative that we (do) not see these as passing trends but that we rather take this opportunity to shift our policy priority to a new emphasis on the consumer, to encourage changes in personal and corporate attitudes and behavior, and to work for structural changes conducive to improving the quality of Japanese life.

The government drew up its new five-year economic plan "sharing a better quality of life around the globe" last year, and this year is the year to make the first real steps toward the plan's implementation.

Housing and social overhead capital improvements are indispensable if each and every Japanese is to be able to achieve a comfortable and satisfying life-style appropriate to Japan's economic accomplishments. The years left to us in this century are a crucial time for creating the quality social infrastructure stock that we want to leave to posterity.

Accordingly, the FY 1993 draft budget represents a determined effort to earmark priority funding to housing and urban parks, sewer systems, sanitation facilities, and other areas impacting directly upon living conditions.

Looking especially at housing, comprehensive policies are being advanced to enhance housing loan corporation financing, to expand the supply of housing, and otherwise to make it possible for an ordinary wage-earner to buy quality housing within a major metropolitan area for about five times his or her annual income. At the same time, we will continue to promote comprehensive land policies to dispel the myth of ever-rising land prices and to consolidate the cooling and stabilization of land prices.

Needless to say, Japan's prosperity is supported by the people's diligence. However, it is imperative that we achieve shorter working hours to bring greater richness to individual lives and to enhance the opportunities for family gathering. As well as supporting initiatives by small business and other companies and striving for the full adoption of the five-day work week to achieve the target of 1,800 working hours per year, I will be submitting legislation to this session of the national Diet to amend the Labor Standards Law to achieve the downshift to 40-hour work weeks.

Ensuring that all Japanese can participate in and contribute to society commensurate with their abilities, is an important issue holding the key to securing a better quality of life. It is especially important to enable women to achieve their full potential in society, by rethinking our entrenched expectations of different roles for men and women and reworking our other social institutions, practices, and customs, as well as by working to ensure equal opportunity for both men and women so as to achieve joint participation in Japanese social structures.

Seeking to create a friendlier climate for working women, I intend to work for the broader acceptance of child-care leave systems, nursing leave systems, and other systems, and to adapt the legal system and make the other necessary measures needed to enhance policies for part-time workers.

Having the greatest longevity of any country, Japanese society is heading for extreme aging such as the world has never before experienced. It is basic to politics that we enable old people to live rich lives in the communities where they feel at home. Accordingly, and along with enhancing employment opportunities for old people and seeking to stabilize public pensions over the long term, I intend to work to create systems whereby community health, medical, and welfare services can be provided on an integrated and planned basis. There is an especially urgent need to have more nurses, welfare workers, and other people in this field, and I intend to implement comprehensive policies here, including measures to improve working conditions.

Moreover, in addition to working to create a climate conducive to the sound development of our children, the mainstays of the future, I intend to work to enhance and strengthen total welfare provisions on a long-term basis even after the end of the United Nations decade of disabled persons so that all people with disabilities can take full part in society and we can attain the ideal of equality.

There has been a sharp increase in the number of AIDS patients and HIV-positive people. It is imperative that we stem this increase. Accordingly, along with gaining the cooperation of local governments and private organizations in educational activities to ensure that accurate information is provided in the community, at work, at school, and everywhere else we will develop comprehensive and concerted policies including enhanced counseling, testing, and treatment and greater research into cures.

I would like next to address the issue of public safety. Public safety in Japan has recently become more precarious with, for example, the increase in organized crime, the spread of violence involving the use of guns and terrorist or guerrilla incidents, and more drug-related crime and traffic fatalities. It goes without saying that public safety is the very foundation of social life, and I intend to do everything necessary in this regard.

It is important to create a multipolar, decentralized national structure if the people are to have an equal chance to achieve comfort and satisfaction. Along with promoting the further dispersion of urban and industrial functions, I thus intend to actively promote the priority improvement of local urban hubs for growth and living and local initiatives for hometown creation. At the same time, responding to the centralization in Tokyo, I will, while considering policies to deal with overcrowding, promote vigorous studies of the specific possibilities for moving the national Diet and other governmental bodies out of Tokyo. In addition, I will work to integrate the entire nation and to make it one by improving the high-grade trunk roads and other roadways, trunk rail lines, airports, and the rest of the high-speed traffic network and modernizing the sophisticated information and telecommunications network that is so much a part of our lives and our communities.

I will also continue to work vigorously for Hokkaido's overall growth and for Okinawa's development, and will endeavor to conserve the land in ways consistent with local realities.

My heartfelt sympathies go out to the people who suffered in the recent earthquakes off Kushiro. The government is making every effort for prompt recovery from the disaster and is otherwise working to further enhance the total range of disaster policies.

In addition to their crucial mission as stable suppliers of vital national foodstuffs, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries also serve such multifunctional purposes as preserving the land and the environment and providing the setting for satisfying lives and rewarding leisure, backed up by local cultural traditions.

Today, our primary industries face a dearth of younger people and our rural villages face disproportionately older populations. Working with a long-term vision looking ahead to a new era in the 21st century, I will work to achieve a strong agricultural structure in which ambitious, business-wise farmers are the main-stay producers. At the same time, I will promote basic social infrastructure improvements so that mountainous areas where conditions are disadvantageous, as well as other rural villages, can develop as diversely dynamic regions. Regarding forestry and fisheries, I will endeavor, for example, to create forests as greenery and water resources for land and environmental conservation, and to promote fisheries utilizing the riches of the seas.

Those of us who are alive today have a duty to protect the finite environment as the basis for human life and to pass it along to future generations, and this is also the foundation for improving the quality of life. Also seeking to achieve sustainable socioeconomic structures compatible with the environment, the government is currently studying the issues so as to draft a basic environmental law advancing policies suited to the global environmental era in an integrated and systematic fashion.

If we are to respond appropriately to global environmental issues, it is essential that we also deal with energy supply and demand. On the demand side we will take comprehensive measures to promote radical energy conservation in all areas, and on the supply side we will actively promote the development and use of environmentally friendly nuclear power and renewable energy sources. With particular respect to nuclear power, while making every effort to ensure its safety, we will work for the smooth siting of power plants and the peaceful use of nuclear fuel, and will also cooperate to enhance nuclear safety in the former Soviet Union and in Central and Eastern Europe.

Education, arts and culture, and science and technology form the basis for enabling Japan to develop as a creative and vigorous cultural nation, and to contribute to the international community.

Realizing this, I intend to work for formal education which will enhance each individual's personality and creativity and will develop broad-minded and dependable people who have a sense of pride as Japanese, and who are able to contribute to the international community. At the same time and along with working for a society in which everyone has ample opportunity for continuing education, I will also seek to encourage international cultural exchanges and to promote sports, arts, and other cultural aspects.

In addition, we must also promote creative and cutting-edge academic and scientific research so as to secure the basis for Japan's own future development and to contribute intellectually to the international community. As well as working to fundamentally improve the climate for education and research at institutions of higher learning and to enhance and strengthen the foundations for research and development and striving to promote international research exchanges and cooperation, I will also promote better understanding of global phenomena and the development and utilization of space, the seas, and other frontiers.

Moving from a producer orientation to an emphasis on the consumer and the individual and from efficiency priorities to full heed for justice is a basic tenet of the effort to improve the quality of Japanese life.

I intend to promote consumer administration positively and comprehensively so that each and every Japanese can enjoy true security and satisfying consumption. Studies are now underway within the government on how best overall to prevent consumer injury and provide consumer redress, and I hope to have an answer by the end of the year. At the same time, ensuring and promoting free and fair market competition is also important to protecting consumer interests, and we will continue to deal stringently with violations of the antimonopoly act and to make competition policy more transparent.

We need to appropriately respond to such issues as facilitation of social capital for the 21st century and an aging society. We also need to continuously secure healthy financial management and promote financial reform, all designed to avoid accumulation of unpaid public loans, in order to steadily move toward changing our nation to a lifestyle superpower and to actively respond to Japan's growing role in international society. I will also devise a plan for the smooth operation of local finances.

Moreover, at this time we are forced to undergo reform and make a fundamental review of administrative organizations and their roles at a time when attempts are being made to significantly divert reform. In addition to pushing forward my attempts to transfer power to local districts and to ease regulations, I am determined to carry out measures which strengthen the capability to develop comprehensive policies by reviewing the shared role between the government and the people after sectionalism is abolished. I will do this on the basis of my resolve to achieve a simple and effective administration.

By facilitating the system for administrative procedures I will also aim at forming an administration which is fair, transparent, and trusted by the people.

The people's growing distrust in politics has reached a state we have never experienced before. As a politician, and also as a person who has taken the helm of the state, I am sincerely concerned about it. Now is the time for politics to show Japan a direction and to push forward for its materialization. We have to regain the people's hope for and trust in politics by bringing about political reform as soon as possible. It is said a campaign to cleanup politics was promoted in Britain after the introduction of the so- called law for prevention of corruption. The time is also ripe for Japan to carry out fundamental reform for the continuous expansion of democratic politics in the future.

The emergency reform which was approved during the previous Diet session was a steady first step toward political reform. Continuous promotion of fundamental reform without halting our forward steps is the way to respond to the people's expectation.

The "fundamental policy of political reform," which the Liberal Democratic Party spelled out the other day, is aimed at various things: establishing political ethics, securing transparency of political funds, and establishing a party-oriented election system. Needless to say there are various opinions and confrontations of interests. However, I will buckle down to the task of bringing about political reform as if there is no tomorrow.

I hope we will be able to have thorough and constructive discussions during this Diet session for bringing about fundamental political reform.

We are now at a crossroads which will open the outlook for Japan as it enters the 21st century. Circumstances at home and abroad are significantly changing, and Japan and other countries are forced to reform. It is obvious to everybody that the time is ripe for promoting reform. But reform is attended by major difficulties. However, there is a possibility of undermining the future of Japan should we hesitate now to take a step toward a new way.

I called for "reform and action" when the new cabinet was inaugurated. I am determined to review politics, the entire social system, and other matters; I am determined to carry out reform which will enable us to respond to a new age in order to make Japan a nation which will be respected in international society and in which each Japanese can actually feel happiness with pride.

I sincerely ask each Dietman and the people for your understanding and cooperation.

Foreign Minister Addresses Diet

OW2201114993 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0542 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Speech by Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe to the 126th regular session of the national Diet at the main chamber of the House of Representatives in Tokyo—live]

[Text] At the opening of this 126th session of the national Diet, I would like to state my views on our nation's basic foreign policy.

At the outset, I would like to state my views on the international situation. Although an old international order has collapsed, a new order to replace it has not yet been established. Therefore, the configuration of the new order is still unclear. Since the international community is entering an era of ambiguity and uncertainty, which is characteristic of a transitional period, it is still a long way from enjoying peace. The recent Iraqi crisis and the current situations in Somalia and former Yugoslavia—the suffering from starvation and from tragic domestic conflict—symbolize such an era. There is concern over the possibility that religious, ethnic, and territorial conflicts, which have been dormant, will come to the fore. In the former republics of the Soviet Union—including Russia—democratization and reform toward a market economy are still underway. They are still faced with serious economic issues, including the problem of improving the people's daily life. With the exception of continuous, rapid economic growth in Asian nations, the revitalization of the world economy in general remains stalled. Since industrialized nations are preoccupied with their own increasing domestic economic and social problems, the possibility exists that these nations only will attach importance to their respective domestic issues. In addition, since such issues as poverty and an increasing population in most developing countries have become increasingly serious, the international community must become united to deal with such issues more seriously. The international community is now in an historical transitional period. While trying to deal with ethnic, religious, and other issues which have appeared in various regions as a result of the end of the cold war, the international community is groping for a new framework for peace and prosperity. I believe, however, that it will take years before a new framework for stabilizing the international community will be established.

I would now like to state my views on the goal of Japan's foreign policy. The international community currently is faced with such an historic task that efforts should be made to steadily overcome various political issues occurring during the transitional period so that many more people will be able to enjoy peace, freedom, and prosperity. To respond to such international requirements, as well as to open up a bright future, Japan for its part is required to demonstrate leadership commensurate with its strength. For that purpose, Japan is determined to make positive efforts by providing not only economic and technical cooperation, but also personnel and intellectual cooperation. Our nation rose up from the ashes of World War II, and eventually came to enjoy today's peace and prosperity. It is apparent that our peace and prosperity is attributed mostly to the people's diligent work and to the efforts under a free market system. At the same time, however, we should not forget that Japan-U.S. cooperation based on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, and the post-war open world economic system centered on GATT and IMF, are another important factor.

Today, with Japan's presence having grown immensely, we must act not merely as beneficiaries of the international order, but must contribute to it and play a role in strengthening it. Fulfilling that role is in our country's long-term interest and must be a goal of our foreign policy.

I also would like to state my views on the issue of promoting cooperation among the international community. A nation, even if it is an industrialized one, will not be able to deal with such an issue alone. It is necessary for the international community to take concerted action to deal with the issue. In that sense, cooperation between the UN member nations and Japan, the United States, and European nations—as well as between nations in the Asia-Pacific region—is important. The industrial nations' summit is scheduled to be held in Tokyo in July. Keeping in mind the importance of international cooperation, Japan as host is determined to make every effort to make the forthcoming summit a success.

Now I would like to state my views on the issue of strengthening the functions of the United States. Now that the U.S.-Soviet bipolar structure has collapsed, the only realistic way of maintaining the international order is to strengthen the system of international cooperation based on cooperation between each nation.

First, it is essential that the structure of international organizations—including the United Nations—be strengthened, and that each country cooperate in pursuing a common responsibility. Being freed from the ideological confrontation between East and West, the United Nations has now recovered its original function of maintaining world peace and security. The world's expectations of the UN peacekeeping function have increased greatly. Because Japan consistently has maintained a UN-centered foreign policy since the end of World War II, it should make further efforts to help the world body achieve its goals. Recently, the number of UN-led peacekeeping operations [PKO] has increased drastically; since 1948, 28 peacekeeping operations have been carried out, and to our surprise 15 of the 28 operations have been conducted during the last five years. Also, details of the peacekeeping efforts have changed, and the extent of their activities has been expanded greatly. To go along with this trend, further cooperation among UN member nations is necessary. Japan made personnel contributions in accordance with the UN Peacekeeping Operations Cooperation Law. Moreover, to strengthen the financial foundation of the world body, it proposed establishing a peacekeeping fund, the so-called PKO support fund. This proposal has been carried out.

Recently, there have been cases in which the United Nations is expected to do more than conduct its conventional role to maintain peace. For this reason, international activities to ensure safe circumstances for pursuing humanitarian aid in Somalia have drawn great attention. Since the role and task of the United Nations has been diversified, member nations are required to be more flexible in contributing to the world body. Japan has to accept this requirement in earnest as a responsible member of the international community. Also, it has become a world view that the United Nations needs to reform and strengthen its entire structure as well as that of the UN Security Council in order to effectively carry out its functions. I stressed this point at the UN General Assembly meeting last year. Japan's assertion on reforming the world body was accepted unanimously at the meeting and incorporated in the UN resolution, which carried the member nations' views on the reform of the UN Security Council and was submitted to the UN secretary general. I intend to hold more detailed and earnest discussions on this issue with other UN member nations.

Now I want to speak about relations between Japan, the United States, and Europe. Close cooperation between Japan, the United States, and Europe has become increasingly important to resolve various urgent issues the international community is facing. Japan is urged to cooperate actively in solving these issues. No nation except the United States can take the initiative in enhancing international cooperation. In this context, I welcome from the bottom of my heart the inauguration speech of U.S. President Bill Clinton, in which he called for American unity to revitalize the United States and expressed a determination to continue to play a leading role in the post-Cold war era. Considering efforts to secure world peace and prosperity as the common task between Japan and the United States, we should forge a new cooperative relationship with the Clinton administration which is appropriate at this turning point in history. The Japanese-U.S. security arrangement continues to serve as an important foundation for Japan's foreign policy even in the post-cold war era. The security arrangement is important because it ensures peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and lends credence to its repeated pledge not to become a military threat to other countries.

Since Japan and the United States are linked closely in the economic arena, the two nations cannot be separated. This economic relationship sometimes leads to trade friction, but that is inevitable. The two nations should make efforts to conduct harmonious trade and to strengthen cooperative relations. This is important not only for Japan and the United States, but also for the development of the world economy. We expect the Clinton administration and the U.S. Congress to take a firm attitude against protectionism in the United States. We also expect U.S. efforts to revitalize its economy to be successful. Japan will support such U.S. efforts.

[Text] Along with the drastic changes in the international community over the past few years, a historical integration centered on the EC has been progressing in Europe. It is precisely a historical reform for the European nations to become integrated. Also, I believe that once integration is complete, it is bound to influence greatly the world both politically and economically. In this sense, my recent visit to Europe, as well as political dialogues conducted between myself and the leaders of various nations, are of great use. I intend to continue to conduct dialogues with European nations.

Next, I would like to talk about our cooperation with the Asia- Pacific region. As a result of the remarkable economic development witnessed over the past few years, those Asia-Pacific nations that currently are in the process of achieving political stability have come to play an important role in cooperative efforts aimed at promoting peace and prosperity in the region. While promoting cooperation with these nations, we intend to ensure peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and, from there, to strive also to achieve peace and prosperity in the world. On the basis of these ideas, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa recently conducted a tour of four ASEAN nations, during which he stated the need to strengthen further cooperative relations between Japan and ASEAN.

Next, I would like to talk about our major policy tasks. To tackle various problems with which the international community is directly faced, the task of maintaining and strengthening the vigor of the world economy has now become far more important than ever.

Under the current free economic system, however, it is impossible for nations to maintain individual prosperity for long because of strong, interdependent relations that exist among the economies of various nations. For this same reason, it is urged strongly that various nations promote policy coordination in the current situation in which industrialized nations have lagged behind in achieving economic recovery.

For our nation's part, to ensure noninflationary and continuous economic growth centered on domestic demand will not only be significant to us, but it also will contribute greatly to the international community in promoting the sound development of the world economy. The successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round, which has now entered its final stage, is essential for the future of the world economy, especially when viewed from the standpoint of maintaining and strengthening the free multilateral trade system. Our country is determined to continue its maximum efforts to bring these talks to an early and successful conclusion.

Now I would like to speak on issues concerning how world peace and stability can be secured. The unstable situation in the Middle East and disputes in regions such as the former Yugoslavia, Somalia, and Cambodia constitute major factors for apprehension in today's world, which is now in a state of flux. Based on this understanding, our country will continue to provide not only cooperation through funding, but also through personnel contributions, and it will make diplomatic efforts in a positive way to bring about the settlement of regional conflicts

First, regarding cooperation in funding, Japan already has provided more than $20 million each in relief funds for settling the refugee problems in the former Yugoslavia and Somalia, as well as for settling problems in Cambodia. Specifically in terms of Somalia, we have decided to provide the UN Trust Fund for Somalia with $100 million in addition to our humanitarian aid.

For our personnel contributions, we already have dispatched PKO units to Angola and Cambodia based on the PKO Cooperation Law. Moreover, in terms of diplomatic efforts, we have assumed a positive role at numerous multilateral consultation forums for settling problems such as the Cambodia issue and the issue of peace in the Middle East. Also, as our people can observe in daily reports, the international community has played a positive role in dealing with such situations, as indicated by the handling of the disastrous situation in Somalia.

Now that political conflicts, as well as measures taken by the international community to deal with them, are becoming more diverse, I believe that we once again are facing the question of what steps our nation should take.

[Text] Another important task for ensuring peace and stability in this world during a transition period lies in how to handle arms control and disarmament. Since last year, several major moves have been made in this field.

First, the United States and Russia reached an accord last June on reducing the number of strategic nuclear warheads to one-third of the current number by the year 2003; the two nations have signed the treaty only recenlty.

As the only nation with experience in atomic bombing, our country attaches great importance to nuclear disarmament, and we strongly hope that those treaties which have been signed so far will be implemented steadily; we hope that those nations other than the United States and Russia that possess nuclear arms will join in the process of nuclear disarmament. [applause]

Second, we welcome the fact that nations such as China and France have signed the Treaty of Nuclear Non-Proliferation, and that the popularity of this treaty has been further upgraded as all nations possessing nuclear arms have signed it; the number of signatory nations already exceeds 150.

Third, talks on eliminating chemical weapons, which have long been conducted, were finally brought to an end last September. It is unprecedented that all chemical weapons will now be prohibited. I myself attended the signing ceremony held in Paris recently.

While desirable moves as those mentioned above have been made, suspicions concerning nuclear arms development in such nations as North Korea and Iraq, as well as concern over the possible outflow from China and the former Soviet Union of weapons of mass destruction and the technology for producing such weapons, have aroused the apprehension of the international community.

Japan's policy is to coordinate further with other nations concerned in strengthening the system of nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and of missiles. Moreover, we already have indicated our intention to contribute $20 million to the establishment of the International Technology Center, which will be established to prevent the outflow of nuclear arms technology from China and the former Soviet Union. We also are determined to provide positive cooperation for the center's smooth development of its activities.

As for conventional weapons, it is important to upgrade the transparency of arms transfers, thereby deepening mutual trust among the nations concerned. We will make further efforts for the smooth implementation of the UN Arms Registry System, which was instituted as a result of a proposal from our nation as well as others.

Moreover, due to the expansion of the ammunition industry during the cold war, various countries now possess the capability to produce excessive amounts of weapons. We will make efforts, however, to stress to the international community the importance of taking a cautious approach toward this surplus capability so that it will not cause disorderly transfers of weapons in certain regions which may result in instability in the ammunition industry.

Next, I will speak about support for moves toward democratization or toward the introduction of a market economy. In order to make world peace last, it is necessary to respect liberty, human rights, and democracy; achieve prosperity under a market economy; and create a society which guarantees well-being for each individual. There is a growing chance for promoting reforms to achieve democratization and to introduce a market economy, not only in various former Soviet Union states and former East European nations, but also Mongolia, various nations in Southwest Asia, and many developing nations in Africa and Central and South America.

For Russia, we have provided technological and humanitarian aid which is no less than the aid provided to other nations, and in the future we plan to provide appropriate aid in cooperation with the international community. As a part of such efforts, we hosted the Tokyo conference on support for the former Soviet Union last October. As for various central Asian nations, it has been decided recently—through our persuasion—that they will be regarded as eligible for official development assistance [ODA] funds.

Moreover, Japan's ODA charter stipulates that sufficient attention will be paid to the trend of military spending in those nations considered for receiving aid, as well as to their efforts to promote democratization and introduce a market economy. This is based on the idea of positively supporting and promoting efforts for democratization and introducing a market economy through provision of aid.

In reviewing the current situation in developing countries, it is noted that there still are many problems such as hunger, poverty, low economic growth, and accumulated debts; consequently there is a great need for aid as never before. Japan will continue to regard aid for developing countries as an important sector of its diplomacy, and based on the theory and principles stated in the ODA charter will continue to support developing countries in the future.

Based on such ideas, we have requested 114.4 billion yen in general government accounts in the draft ODA budget to be submitted to the current Diet session for deliberation, despite the fact we are in a serious financial situation.

I would like to turn to my views on global issues. The international community is now facing issues such as environmental pollution, an increase in population, refugees, AIDS, drugs, and terrorism. These serious issues concern all of mankind. Japan, for its part, as one of the members of the global community, is required to make further efforts to resolve these global issues. Concerning the environmental issue in particular, it is important to faithfully carry out what was agreed to at last year's UN Conference on Environment and Development [UNCED]. With this in mind, Japan will strive to come up with an action plan, as well as work toward concluding the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. As announced at the UNCED, the government will expand and strengthen its ODA in the field of environment.

As for the issue of refugees, it is beginning to be resolved, and governments in Central America and Cambodia have started sending refugees back home. In former Yugoslavia and Somalia, however, more refugee problems have arisen, and there is concern that the refugee problems in these nations may have an effect on stability of nations concerned. It has been determined that our nation will cooperate more in resolving refugee problems in various nations and play a more positive role. The appropriation of $83 million to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees from the budget of fiscal 1993, which is $8 million greater than that of the last fiscal year, reflects Japan's position on the refugee issue.

Next I would like to refer to the issue concerning science, culture, and technology. To build peaceful and stable international relations, it is necessary to promote intellectual and cultural exchanges between each nation, deepen international mutual understanding, and build fiduciary relations among nations. This indeed is indispensable for creating peaceful and stable international relations. In addition, our country is determined to cooperate positively in dealing with other issues, including the preservation of cultural assets, which are commonly the property of mankind, and the promotion of culture and education in developing countries. In the field of science and technology, international cooperation has become increasingly important to solving environmental problems, including those found in economic zones. It is important for Japan to steadily promote its various international research projects and to accept foreign researchers.

Now I will discuss my views on relations with Asian nations. It was of great significance that the emperor and the empress visited China recently and promoted mutual understanding between the Japanese and the Chinese people and that their visit, in turn, obtained excellent results. Maintaining and improving friendly relations with China and playing a constructive role together with China in the international community are important aspects of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region as well as in the international community. Keeping this important fact in mind, Japan will encourage China to promote its open-door and reform policies and continue with its international cooperation. We strongly hope that Hong Kong will continue to prosper even after 1997. Therefore, we believe that it is important for Hong Kong to maintain the stability of its open politics and economic system based on the agreement between the United Kingdom and China. On the issue of the Korean peninsula, some progress has been made in terms of the South-North Korean dialogue. Nevertheless, I cannot say that bilateral moves toward easing tensions have taken root. Given this situation, Japan intends to contribute to peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia based on friendly cooperative relations with South Korea.

In February, the new government under Kim Yong-sam is scheduled to be inaugurated. In this connection, I intend to make efforts toward building future-oriented relations with the new South Korean Government. Concerning our talks with North Korea on normalizing diplomatic relations, it is difficult to indicate the prospects for the talks because suspicions that North Korea may be developing nuclear weapons have not been cleared. Japan, while keeping an eye on North Korea's moves and maintaining close communications with nations concerned, such as South Korea and the United States, will approach talks with North Korea based on our basic standpoint.

The development of the economy and the society of Indochina is essential to stability and prosperity in all of Asia. In this sense, Japan will help Asian nations, including Vietnam, promote their policies of opening and reform. We highly rate the fact that the preparatory work for a general election in Cambodia is being carried out amid various difficulties under the leadership of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia. Japan will make continuous diplomatic efforts to materialize the general election by May as scheduled, as well as to work for permanent peace in Cambodia.

Now I would like to talk about aid for the former Soviet Union. With regard to relations with the former Soviet Union, or Russia, we have supported its efforts to promote reform. Success or failure of reform in Russia is of great significance to the world. Under such circumstances, complete normalization of Japanese-Russian relations is indispensable for the future development of the Asian-Pacific Region. For this purpose, it is necessary to continuously hold high-level dialogue, including summit talks. It is most regrettable that President Yeltsin's visit to Japan has been postponed.

However, in an effort to restore the talks on Japanese-Russian relations temporarily suspended due to the postponement of his visit to Japan, I had talks with Foreign Minister Kozyrev in late September last year, and thereby resumed the talks between our two nations. During the recent talks with Foreign Minister Kozyrev in Paris, I managed to confirm that earnest efforts will be made to have President Yeltsin visit Japan at an early date.

Based on the principle of expanded equilibrium, we intend to continue our efforts to settle the territorial issue, conclude a peace treaty, and upgrade Japanese-Russian relations to a new level.

Moreover, we have been trying to strengthen our relations with various states of the former Soviet Union. Embassies recently have been established in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine, and a representative office in Belarus.

Finally, I would like to talk about our relations with nations in other regions. It is one of the greatest concerns of the world to ensure peace and stability in the Mideast, including the Gulf area. Recently the joint forces of various nations, including the United States, have used force against Iraq. Since the action was taken to ensure the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, we have stated our understanding of the action taken. As far as our country is concerned, we certainly cannot tolerate any action taken as an open challenge against the UN Security Council resolutions.

Moreover, we have made positive efforts to settle the issue at an early date. For example, we have played an important role in the multinational consultations on settling the Mideast dispute, since the settlement is indispensable for achieving stability in this region. We also plan to continue with our efforts in persuading those nations directly engaged in the talks—such as Syria and Israel—to take a flexible approach toward the talks so as to bring about an early settlement of the issue.

In Africa, it is reported that over 1 million people are on the verge of death from hunger. We are studying what additional measures can be taken to provide further humanitarian aid to deal with the emergency in Somalia. We have supported many African nations in their efforts to challenge democratization and economic development, and for the purpose of further supporting their efforts we plan to host the Tokyo conference on development in Africa in October.

In Central and South America, an election was conducted in Peru recently in a peaceful way for the parliament to work out the new constitution, which is the first step toward restoring the democratic system. In El Salvador, the peace accord has been implemented in a steady way. We will continue to give our positive support to these nations which are seriously endeavoring to promote democratization and to establish a market economy.

I want to talk about measures taken to ensure the safety of Japanese residing overseas, and also their critical situation. Since there is a growing danger of Japanese being involved in regional conflicts in various parts of the world, and since criminal cases of violence with Japanese as victims have been reported frequently, it is important to take strengthened measures to ensure the safety of those overseas Japanese so that they can carry out their activities in safety. Therefore, we plan to improve further the crisis management system of our diplomatic missions abroad so that there will be no shortcomings in the government's role in case of an emergency.

In conclusion, diplomatic activities have a direct influence on various sectors of our daily life today. Nowadays, administration of both foreign and domestic affairs has become closely integrated. Thus, to continue to obtain our people's further understanding and cooperation, I will make efforts to pursue a diplomacy which will be easy to comprehend.

I also will endeavor to strengthen the system for promoting diplomatic activities as well as various functions of the Foreign Ministry so as to turn it into a trustworthy ministry capable of making correct analyses of the international situation from various viewpoints, and also of launching appropriate and mobile diplomatic activities. Under the situation in which the international community will be tackling various tasks, and with Japan coming to share a greater role and responsibility, success or failure of foreign policies will have a greater influence on our nation's politics.

As the person in charge of the foreign affairs, I feel a strong sense of responsibility. With this sense of mission, I am resolved to carry out my duties with sincerity so that no errors will be committed in the future. And with sincerity, I request further understanding and cooperation from our people.

Finance Minister Addresses Diet

OW2201065893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0619 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 22 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi on Friday stressed the need to avoid floating debt-financing bonds despite the nation's tight revenue conditions and to facilitate fiscal reforms. Hayashi, addressing the Diet on the opening day of its 126th session, said, "It is important to construct a fiscal policy that does not lead to the accumulation of government debts and, in principle, not issue debt-financing bonds."

"It is clear that once debt-financing bonds are issued, it will be extremely difficult to stop relying on them and fiscal policy will become chronically subject to red ink," the finance minister said.

He said, however, that the government, in its fiscal 1993 draft budget, has decided to boost the issuing of construction bonds to facilitate public works spending and spur business conditions, bringing the total outstanding government debt by the end of next fiscal year to 182 trillion yen.

Hayashi also said the government hopes the effects of past reductions in the official discount rate, currently standing at 3.25 percent, and lower market rates will further permeate the economy. He said the economy is in an adjustment phase, dealing with problems stemming from the bursting of speculative asset inflation, but signs of recovery can be seen in housing investments, while public works investments have been increasing.

"I am confident such efforts will contribute to achieving sustainable growth in the Japanese economy, focusing on domestic demand," he said.

On the stabilization of the financial system, Hayashi said that, primarily, financial institutions themselves must strive to accomplish that goal but the government must also do its utmost to see that public confidence in the system is maintained.

Hayashi explained that the fiscal 1993 draft budget, approved by the cabinet last month, takes into full consideration the nation's business situation as well as the need to create better living conditions, while cutting expenses and working on rationalization so as to avoid issuing debt-financing bonds.

Economic Planning Chief Speaks

OW2201071993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0706 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 22 KYODO—Japan's chief economic policy planner said Friday further fiscal measures are necessary to prop up the economy, especially to encourage consumer and corporate spending and regain public confidence in the financial system.

"Early recovery of the economy is the top priority," in which the government's measures "must lead to reforms to an economic structure supported by steady consumption and healthy corporate practices," said Hajime Funada, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, addressing the Diet on the opening day of its 126th ordinary session.

He said the Japanese economy remains in a difficult situation as "asset deflation has caused concerns over the stability of the financial system, and due to slackened personal consumption and capital spending."

This is despite signs of a recovery in residential spending and steady public investment, Funada said. Real economic growth in fiscal 1992 is estimated to grow at a pace of some 1.6 percent even with two series of pump-priming packages launched in March and August.

Funada said the fiscal 1993 budget, both national and local, sufficiently takes into account the current economic situation but stressed the need for further efforts to realize a "domestic-driven sustainable growth without inflation."

"On the financial side, measures to maintain a stable financial system will be continued on the premise of thorough streamlining efforts by the private sector," he said. He also said actions will be taken to keep prices stable and to secure the work force at small-and medium-sized companies.

"By appropriately conducting such measures and through private- sector efforts, the economy is expected to grow about 3.3 percent in real terms in fiscal 1993," Funada said.

As for a product liability system, the government will study the possibility of its introduction, he said.

Globally, Funada said Japan will actively contribute to revitalizing the world economy, while taking a lead in strengthening the free-trade system, particularly toward an early settlement of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks. He also called for continued programs to narrow price gaps between Japanese and overseas markets.

North Korea

Pyongyang Radio Reports Inauguration of President Clinton

SK2101152893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] According to a report from Washington, Bill Clinton of the Democratic Party was inaugurated as the 42d president of the United States on 20 January. He was elected in the presidential election last November defeating then-President George Bush of the Republican Party. With this, the Republican Party government came to an end after 12 years with the Democratic Party government coming to power again in the United States.

NODONG SINMUN Stresses Party's Organizational Base

SK2101140293 Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 17 Nov 92 p 2

[Article by Chon Yong-pok: "Firmly Strengthening Organizational, Ideological Foundation Is The Most Important Question in Building Party"]

[Text] In his immortal classical document, "On the Basic Problem for Building a Revolutionary Party," the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il extensively analyzed the cause for the collapse of the parties in some countries which had led the socialist cause and its historic lesson and expounded the unique ideology that firmly deepening the organizational and ideological foundation of the party is a most important problem which arises in building the party of the working class and in its activity.

The dear leader comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: "A most important problem in building the party of the working class and in its activity is to firmly deepen the organizational and ideological foundation of the party."

Firmly deepening the organizational and ideological foundation of the party is, in a nutshell, to firmly build the party's ranks organizationally and ideologically. In other words, it is the work of making the party a combat unit which has been firmly united organizationally with the leader [suryong] as its center and of firmly deepening the organizational foundation and the ideological foundation of the party by seeing to it that the entire party monolithically prevails with the revolutionary ideology of the leader [suryong].

The party of the working class is a political organization formed and rallied based on the working class' ideology, and how we build its organizational and ideological foundation constitutes the basic factor determining its fate. Whether the party can smoothly perform its mission and duty and whether the party can maintain its existence depend on how it can build its organizational and ideological foundation.

For the party to smoothly perform its mission and duty it is imperative, first of all, to firmly deepen its organizational foundation. The work of firmly deepening the party's organizational foundation is the work of firmly building the ranks of cadres and the ranks of party members and establishing in an orderly manner the pary's organizational structure and organizational system so that the party can become a monolithic body firmly rallied around the leader [suryong].

The working-class party is a political organization in which the progressive elements of the working class and the working popular masses are united in an organized manner around the leader. The fundamental characteristic of the working-class party that distinguishes it from other political parties is that its party organizations and party members are firmly united around the leader. Therefore, for the party to take on its characteristic countenance, it should persistently push ahead with the work of achieving organized unity around the leader. If it fails to carry out the work of strengthening the organizational foundation, thus failing to achieve the organized unity of the entire party membership around the leader, the party loses its vigor like an undisciplined mob.

For the party to carry out its mission and duties well, it should also intensify the work of solidifying the ideological foundation.

The work of firmly solidifying the party's ideological foundation is the work of arming the party members with the leader's revolutionary idea and making the party a body of ideological purity.

The party is not only the unitary body of organized unity but also an organic united body which exists and activates with ideology as its artery. For the party that struggles to realize ideology and ideals, ensuring the ideological purity is essential. As man cannot live if blood of a different type is mixed in his body, so the party cannot maintain its existence if an ideology other than the leader's revolutionary idea is mixed in it.

The issue of building the party's organizational and ideological foundation is considered as important not merely at a time of preparation for the party founding. Because of its nature, the working-class party should firmly build its organizational and ideological foundation throughout the entire course of party building beginning at the time of preparing for the party founding.

The issue of firmly building the party's organizational and ideological foundation becomes all the more important particularly when the issue of the inheritance of the party's leadership is raised, because it is at this time when the class enemies within and without and the maneuvers of machinators and schemers who are blind from greed for power become even more conspicuous.

The cause of the working class party cannot be accomplished in one generation but should be carried out generation after generation. Therefore, the issue of leadership inheritance is an indispensable demand of the working class party. However, during this period, maneuvers of the imperialists and class enemies are to be intensified and plotters and ambitious men who infiltrated into the party will maneuver openly and secretly in an attempt to grasp political power. This was clearly proven by historic experience in the international communist movement. Thus, the issue of inheriting the party's cause by checking and frustrating maneuvers of the imperialists, the class enemies, the plotters and ambitious men is a very important question related to life and death of the party. This issue also depends on how to build the party's organizational and ideological foundation.

If the party's organizational and ideological foundation is firm, one can frustrate maneuvers of the imperialists and class enemies scheming to destroy the socialist ruling party and one can timely crush maneuvers of plotters and ambitious men. Breach of faith, which takes place within the party, creates more serious danger in existence of the party than subversive maneuvers from outside. Thus, whether one can check breach of faith or not depends on whether the party's organizational and ideological foundation is firm or not.

If the revolutionary principle is thoroughly observed within the party and the party is firmly organized ideologically and organizationally, the party's leadership will never be turned over to the hands of betrayers of the revolution, just as a house with firm foundation will not collapse by any fierce storm and wind. When the entire party is firmly armed with the leader's ideas and firmly rallied behind the leader [suryong] organizationally, the alien elements will be exposed timely and be liquidated. Thus, they will never be able to set foot in the party. What the plotters and ambitious men seek is the party's leadership. Even if the party's leadership is turned over to their hands, they will not be able to impose their counter-revolutionary lines on party organizations and party members if the party's organizational and ideological foundation is firm.

However, socialist ruling parties in some countries failed to properly carry out the work to guarantee the party's ideological purity. As the result, they failed to check infiltration of bourgeois liberalization wind kicked off by the imperialists and the class enemies. They were not able to timely frustrate counter- revolutionary lines of betrayers of the revolution.

Properly organizing the cadre ranks, who constitute the core of the party, is the most important work in firmly consolidating the party's organizational and ideological foundation. The cadres are the party's core forces, educators of the masses and commanding members of the revolution. Whether one can strengthen the party or not depends on how well the cadre ranks of all units and all domains are organized and how their role is enhanced.

However, socialist ruling parties in some countries failed to properly organize the cadre ranks, and as a result, ideological degeneration was formed among them. Accordingly, the cadres have lost ability to correctly distinguish between the revolutionary and counter-revolutionary phenomena. Moreover, even after they realized counter-revolutionary nature of betrayers, in ideological sympathy with betrayers, they blindly followed and fawned on the betrayers while thinking of their own self-protection. Needless to say, the sincere communists did not discard their conscience and faith in the party, and struggled to defend the party and socialism. Nevertheless, their struggle was not able to overcome counter-revolutionary trends that were caused by the party's degeneration over a long period of time.

Our party put forward the work of building the party's organizational and ideological foundation as a fundamental issue related to destiny of the party. Our party always paid great attention to this work from the time of preparing party building and throughout the entire course of party building. In particular, at a historic time when the issue of leadership inheritance was raised, our party carried out at a new higher stage the work of building the party's organizational and ideological foundation.

The important thing in firmly building the party's organizational and ideological foundation at a time when the party's cause is inherited is to correctly establish the leader's [yongdoja] guiding system.

Correctly resolving the issue of the political leader's successor is essential in succeeding to the party's cause. In building the working class party, the issue of the political leader's successor is the issue of succeeding to the position and role of the political leader. Only when it puts up a leader of the people, who is boundlessly loyal to the party and the revolution and who is refined and qualified to smoothly realize the political leadership for the entire society, the working class party can defend the party's cause and succeed and develop it without wavering or vicissitudes even if any difficult and complicated situation is created in the course of the revolutionary advance.

In order to carry out a correct succession of the party's cause, the party should not only correctly put up a leader but firmly build the organizational and ideological foundation to realize the leader's leadership. When the party successfully carry out the work of building its foundation and establishing the guiding system, it can improve its combat strength and leadership and defend the political and ideological unity and purity of the party ranks. Therefore, the working class party should hold fast to this work as an important issue in the party building.

At the time of succession of the revolutionary cause, our party brilliantly resolved the issue of putting up the people's great leader who is capable of succeeding to the party's ideology and leadership as well as the issue of establishing the guiding system. By upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il at the top of the party and by firmly strengthening the party's organizational and ideological foundation, our party has prepared a firm guarantee to strengthen and develop itself to be the leader's party and the invincible chuche-type party forever. The firm organizational and ideological foundation strengthened at the time of succession of the party's cause is the basic source that enables our party to highly display its combat strength and leadership as the chuche-type revolutionary party which is vigorously pushing ahead with the socialist cause without the slightest wavering in any antisocialist maneuver.

In his historical masterpiece, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong- il has elucidated the unique idea that consolidating the party's organizational and ideological foundation is the most important issue in the working class party's work of party building and its activities, thus preparing a guideline for socialist ruling parties to further advance the revolution and to continuously strengthen and develop themselves to be militant and revolutionary parties without degenerating under any difficult and complicated situation. This theory has given a scientific answer to the fundamental question emerging in building a socialist ruling party and has developed and enriched the chuche theory of party building.

This theory has also provided a mighty ideological and theoretical weapon to strike a serious blow to the imperialists and class enemies, who are trying to destroy the working class party and to overthrow the ruling party, and to protect the party from maneuvers by the enemies of the revolution.

We will deeply master the justness and significance of the great idea and theory on firmly building the party's organizational and ideological foundation, which the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has elucidated in his historical masterpiece, and will thoroughly embody it. By doing so, we will strengthen and develop our party to be the chuche-type revolutionary party forever and will consummate the socialist cause under the party's leadership.

NODONG SINMUN Lauds 'Invincible' Revolutionary Cause

SK1801105493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 18 Jan 93

["We Are Sure To Win"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 18 (KCNA)—Today the imperialists and reactionaries are on the desperate offensive against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the bastion of socialism, to completely remove it from the earth, but the Korean people have launched a gigantic drive in grand socialist construction in the 1990s, smashing all manner of the enemy's offensive with the unshakable conviction that their revolutionary cause wisely guided by the dear leader Comrade Kim

Chong-il, with the great leader President Kim Il-song held in high esteem, is invincible.

This is the basic idea of "we are sure to win", a political essay of NODONG SINMUN today.

Let us carry the revolution to accomplishment with faith and confidence. We are sure to win. Today Korea lives with this faith, advances with this confidence and is vibrant with this spirit and militancy, says the political essay.

Noting that a monument to the victory in the fatherland liberation war is now under construction in Pyongyang, it says this is not merely to commemorate the victory in the war but also to celebrate the victory of us who have defended socialism over the past 40 years after the war and it represents our strong faith to demonstrate to the whole world our stamina and will to defend socialism to the last and win victory in the east today.

Our working people are taking dynamic strides forward from the first day of their new advance in hearty response to the new year address of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, it notes, and says: This is an expression of high confidence and will to display the victory of socialism over capitalism in all aspects by our inexhaustible potentials and indestructible might.

Pointing out that the conviction of sure victory now prevalent in Korea is the faith in our great party, it says: The Workers' Party of Korea is a beacon of our eternal victory and the strong mental support which enables us to advance without the slightest vacillation, hesitation, surrender and renegation under any circumstances.

The political essay stresses:

Let us accomplish our socialist cause, united around the party Central Committee in one mind—this is the unanimous aspiration and death-defying determination of our entire people in the 90's.

If the world reactionaries dare pounce upon us, our entire people will become tens of millions of sharp-edged bayonets and formidable bombs to defend our party and our socialism like an impregnable bastion.

Our revolutionary cause is invincible as it has the ever-victorious party, heroic people and one-match-for-a-hundred revolutionary Armed Forces united around the great leader in one mind. We are sure to win.

KCNA Reviews 19 Jan Pyongyang Press

SK1901061493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0505 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 19 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry news that the great leader President Kim Il-song's New Year address for this year was reported by foreign news media.

NODONG SINMUN says that President Kim Il-song led the Korean revolution to victory, regarding as the faith of a revolutionary the three-point readiness for death from hunger, a beating and cold which was left by his father Kim Hyong-chik.

Foreign political and public circles published statements supporting the policy of national reunification clarified by President Kim Il-song in his New Year address, says the daily.

An article of MINJU CHOSON deals with the positive revolutionary activities conducted by President Kim Il-song in the guerrilla bases established in vast areas on the bank of the Tumen River during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

Works of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were disseminated and studied in different countries, reports NODONG SINMUN.

Appearing in the press is a report that Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the officials, workers, technicians of the Nampo shipbuilding complex and three-revolution team members who built a 6,000-ton floating dock "Hoeryong June 23".

Carried in papers are New Year messages to Comrade Kim Chong-il from foreign party leaders.

NODONG SINMUN prints a solidarity letter to Comrade Kim Chong-il sent by Guillermo Garcia Ponce, general secretary of "new alternative" of Venezuela, denouncing the decision of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

The daily conveys news that the brief history of the revolutionary activities of Comrade Kim Chong-il was carried by the Indian paper RAMAKADARBAR.

Given in the daily is an account of a meeting of Korean educational workers and scientists in Japan and students studying at Japanese schools held in Tokyo to extend thanks to President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il for the remittance of educational aid funds and stipends in the 122nd installment.

It is reported in the daily that foreign visitors to Korea expressed deep impressions of the young Korean people growing up to be creditable heirs to the revolutionary cause of chuche.

The press reports about new year's farming preparations which are progressing apace in the countryside.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article headlined "enthusiasm of masses is basic factor of deciding success in revolution and construction."

A document on all-round energy projects between the DPRK and the UNDP [United Nations Development Program] was signed in Pyongyang, says the daily.

The daily reports that unionists of the South Korean Hyundai Heavy Equipment Co., Ltd. staged a strike in demand of wage hike and Koreans' organisations in the United States made public a statement condemning the "Democratic Liberal Party regime" of South Korea.

The daily reports that the U.S. imperialists deployed fighter bombers in South Korea from the U.S. mainland. The daily in an article says that South Korean intellectuals denounced the outcries of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities about "nuclear suspicion" of the DPRK as a scheme to justify the U.S. Forces' occupation of South Korea.

A commentary of the daily proves that the unemployment problem is a matter which cannot be settled in capitalist society.

It reports that the Syrian president declared that the peace process in the Middle East should be continued, the Angolan president referred to the termination of the dispute in the country, the Nigerian president called for defending peace and stability in the region, the Egyptian president laid stress on the necessity to settle the question of the deported palestinians at an early date.

The United States attacked Iraq again, says the press.

An article of NODONG SINMUN stresses that to struggle against imperialist domination, subjugation, aggression and war is a basic demand of the popular masses for the cause of independence.

KCNA on 18 Jan NODONG SINMUN

SK1801070393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0512 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 18 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today reports that the great leader President Kim Il-song's reminiscences "With the Century" is deeply studied in foreign countries.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the working people who had volunteered to difficult and toilsome fields of socialist construction, says the paper.

The daily editorially calls for attaining the major objectives of socialist construction and fully displaying the advantages of Korean-style socialism.

Seen in the paper are achievements in the production of coal and power and in the light industry.

Figuring large in the daily is a political essay headlined "We Will Win." The essay says that although the imperialists intensify their anti-socialist campaign, our revolutionary cause is invincible as it has the ever-victorious party, the heroic people and the one- match-for-a-hundred revolutionary armed forces united in one mind around the great leader.

It is reported in it that the DPRK ambassador paid a farewell call on the Romanian president, leaders of political parties of Peru met with the DPRK ambassador and Korean film shows were held in Uganda and Ghana.

The paper conveys words of foreign political and public figures supporting the proposal for reunifying Korea through a confederacy.

It runs a commentary accusing the commander of the U.S. troops occupying South Korea of having let out a string of slanderous words against the DPRK, declaring that the "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers would be staged.

The paper reports that a spokesman of the Democratic Party of South Korea criticised the U.S. pressure on South Korea to open the rice market and different organizations of South Korea demanded that those who published declarations of conscience be released or be removed from the want list.

Foreign newspapers described the release of Yim Sukyong on parole as a victory of international solidarity and the overseas Korean newspaper MINJOK SIBO denounced the South Korea-Japan military tieup, according to the paper.

It informs the readers that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged war exercises against the North.

An article of the paper demands the disbandment of fascist repressive machines that challenge democratization in South Korea.

The paper conveys words of foreigners praising the Korean-style socialism centred on the masses.

It comments on the foolish words of a ranking official of the Japanese Government slandering the DPRK after Japan shipped in plutonium.

A spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry demanded the revocation of the "government reform formula" of the governor-general of Hong Kong and France opposed the U.S.-EC agreement, according to the daily.

The paper conveys economic briefs from India, Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates and Laos.

The paper deals with the escalating civil war in Angola.

KCNA on 16 Jan Press

SK1601052993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 16 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry news that the new year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song was reported by foreign newspapers.

They print messages of greetings to President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il from foreign party leaders on the occasion of the new year.

An article of NODONG SINMUN tells that President Kim Il-song, 65 years ago, personally founded the revolutionary newspaper SAENAL, the first of its kind in Korea, and developed it into a powerful means of mass education.

"The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party", an immortal classical work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, was carried by Zambian and Tunisian newspapers, according to the daily.

Papers inform the readers that Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to officials, employees and a family who distinguished themselves in helping the people's army.

Appearing in NODONG SINMUN is an editorial calling for the party members and working people to press ahead with the socialist construction this year holding fast to the line of the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural.

Econews of the press includes reports about new success in the production of iron headings and coal and in railway transport and preparations for the new year's farming.

Papers give an account of meetings held at health establishments for vowing to carry out the tasks set out at the Korean intellectuals meeting.

The Korean ambassador to Yemen paid a farewell call on the chairman of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen, report papers.

Press commentaries hit out at the despicable move of the South Korean side to evade the 14th meeting of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee.

The U.S. imperialists staged combined air war exercises against the North, says the press.

Papers report that the South Korean newspaper HANGYORE SINMUN called for the release of all prisoners of conscience.

In a semi-monthly review on the South Korean situation NODONG SINMUN points out that the South Korean authorities have invariably committed their anti-national acts of confrontation, war, fascism and division.

The paper in a commentary lashes out at the fascist outrage of the South Korean police against farmers.

Statements were released in various countries in support of the three principles of national reunification—independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity—and progressive public figures of the world referred to the socialism of Korea as invincible, according to the press.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with commentaries denouncing the U.S. and the South Korean authorities for kicking up an anti-DPRK campaign with a talk about the "suspicion of chemical weapons" and denouncing director of the U.S. CIA Gates who clamoured about "limited access provided to inspectors" on the nuclear facilities of the DPRK.

World news of the press includes reports that the Philippine president called for strengthening cooperation between the ASEAN members, the Argentine president expressed the determination to retake the Islas Malvinas and the secretary general of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) called for achieving peace by one's own efforts.

NODONG SINMUN urges in an article that the United States which is responsible for the reunification question of Korea should discard its anachronistic Korea policy and enforce a fair policy.

A MINJU CHOSON article deals with the fierce strife among the U.S. munitions monopolies to take the right to develop a new-type missile.

KCNA Denounces Reported Deployment of U.S. Fighters

SK1901050693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 19 (KCNA)—Fourteen nuclear-capable F-16 and F-15 fighter-bombers were reportedly deployed in the Osan Airforce Base in South Korea from the U.S. mainland via Guam, refuelled in mid air by four KC-135 tankers Sunday.

This criminal act was committed at a time when the inter-Korean agreement had been adopted and put into effect and the Korean people's desire for the peaceful reunification of the country was growing. This clearly shows that the U.S. imperialists are war maniacs and the main obstructors to Korean reunification.

The U.S. imperialists must immediately withdraw their death tools illegally shipped into South Korea and stop at once all the war maneuverings seeking to bring the situation of the Korean peninsula back to the original state of distrust and confrontation.

NODONG SINMUN Sees Struggle as 'Requirement' for Independence

SK1901105593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT 19 Jan 93

["Fundamental Requirement for Independent Cause of Popular Masses"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 19 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today stresses that struggling against the imperialist domination and subjugation, aggression and war is a fundamental requirement for the independent cause of the popular masses and an important task raised by the times.

The article quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"Struggling against domination and subjugation and aggression and war by imperialism, is a natural demand of the independent cause of the popular masses and compromising with the imperialist policy of domination is the betrayal to their cause of independence."

The dominationist policy of imperialists must be opposed because it is the main factor that blocks the independent development of countries and nations and the democratization of the international public, the article says, and goes on:

[Word Indistinct] the imperialists have become all the more undisguised in their moves to make the world a unipolar one in which they hold sway following the demolition of balance of forces in the international arena.

They are spearheading efforts on the socialist countries which are firmly adhering to the revolutionary principle in order to disorganize, isolate and blockade them and bring them to their knees, and are making every effort to prevent the revival of socialism in those countries where socialism suffered a setback.

At the same time, they are infringing upon the sovereignty and dignity of the peoples in those countries which set about [word indistinct] a new society, and imposing their policies of exploitation, plunder and subjugation upon them.

Fighting against imperialist aggression and war is an essential requirement for the people's cause of independence also because the independent cause of the popular masses is the cause of peace.

Today when the showdown of strength between superpowers has come to an end, the imperialists are persistently resorting to their policy of aggression and war with the aim of destroying the independent cause of the popular masses and maintaining the old order of domination and subjugation by relying on their military predominance. They are keeping their forward deployment forces in strategic areas and stepping up military intervention and war motves. A graphic example of this is witnessed on the Korean peninsula.

The military domination of South Korea, military threats and blackmail and stepped-up war exercises against the North, etc. Clearly prove how desperately th imperialist reactionaries are trying to overpower and contain our republic, the bastion of socialism.

Checking and frustrating domination and subjugation, aggression and war by the imperialists is a national and an international task facing the peoples of all countries in the world, the article says, and stresses: An important requisite to [word indistinct] not to harbor any illusion and expectation with imperialism, not to allow their policies of domination and subjugation, aggression and war but to strengthen unity and solidarity of the world's independent forces.

Foreign Minister Meets Palestinian Ambassador

SK1801112693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 18 (KCNA)—Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam today met and conversed with Palestinian Ambassador to Korea Ibrahim Muhamad Mustafa who paid a courtesy call on him.

Mongolian Trade Delegation Arrives 17 Jan

SK1801112293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1043 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 18 (KCNA)—A Mongolian Government trade delegation headed by B. Mandalsuren, deputy minister for trade and industry, arrived in Pyongyang on January 17.

It was met at Pyongyang railway station by Vice-chairman of the state external economic affairs commission Chon Il-chun and Mongolian Ambassador to Korea Sh. Gungaadorj.

Envoy to Romania Pays Farewell Call on Iliescu

SK1701125493 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Mun Pyong-nok, our country's ambassador to Romania, paid a farwell visit on 12 January to Romanian President Ion Iliescu.

At the talks, the ambassador conveyed greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to President Ion Iliescu.

Expressing deep thanks for this, the president asked the ambassador to convey his warm greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The president noted that Romania hopes that Korea's reunification will be resolved according to the Korean people's will without fail.

Ambassadors to Yemen, Bangladesh Appointed

SK1901140593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Our country's ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Yemen and the People's Republic of Bangladesh have been appointed.

According to the DPRK Central People's Committee's decrees, Comrade Chu Wang-chol has been appointed as our country's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Yemen, and Comrade Chang Won-sik has been appointed as our country's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Yang Hyong-sop Greets Ghanaian Parliament Speaker

SK1501120493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1058 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 15 (KCNA)—Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, sent a message of greetings to D. F. Annan upon his election as speaker of the parliament of the Republic of Ghana.

Expressing the belief that the friendly relations between the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and the parliament of the Republic of Ghana will develop excellently in the future in the interests of the two peoples, the message wishes him success in his responsible work.

NODONG SINMUN Urges Dissolution of ROK's 'Suppressive Tools'

SK1801105393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 18 Jan 93

["NODONG SINMUN Demands Dissolution of Suppressive Tools in South Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 18 (KCNA)—Dissolving the most fascist suppressive machines against the people in South Korea is an important touchstone of the will to practise democratisation, declares NODONG SINMUN today.

In a by-lined article titled "Fascist Suppressive Tools Challenging Democratisation Must Be Dissolved," the paper says:

Now the South Korean rulers and the "Democratic Liberal Party" clan are vociferating about "democratic development," "civilian politics" and the like. But this is a false propaganda intended to create an illusion about the "DLP regime."

The article goes on:

If the South Korean society is really to achieve democratic development, independence must be realized and the military fascist rule be terminated.

Today the most ferocious military fascist dictatorship ever known reigns in South Korea and the "Security Planning Board" (SPB), its tool, is left as it is.

The "Secret Affairs Command" (SAC), an intelligence and investigation organisation, has earned itself an ill fame for stifling democracy and brutally violating the human rights.

Police, always serving the ruling forces, takes the van in suppressing people.

With the general mobilisation of the fascist suppressive tools such as "SPB," "SAC," police and prosecution, checkup and search and investigation are made everyday, and bloody suppression of students and patriotic democratic forces fighting for independence, democracy and reunification is committed in broad daylight.

All the facts clearly show that the "democratic development" advertised by the South Korean rulers and the "DLP" group are a lie and the "civilian politics" to be enforced by a new "regime" on this foundation is a deception of reality.

South Korea

Dailies View President Clinton's Inauguration

SK2101080593

[Editorial Report] Daily newspapers published on 20 and 21 January carry editorial remarks on the inauguration of U.S. President Bill Clinton.

SEOUL SINMUN carries on page 3 of its 20 January edition an 800-word editorial entitled "A New United States Under Bill Clinton." The editorial welcomes Bill Clinton's inauguration, terming him the first postwar generation president of the United States. The editorial notes difficult tasks that Bill Clinton will face in building a new strong United States, including restoring its difficult economic stiuation. It urges the new U.S. Government not to victimize other countries in order to restore its economy, but to seek an economic policy for co-prosperity in the world.

The editorial says that "the transitional situation of the world seeks a new post-cold war order that calls on the new United States under Bill Clinton to perform its heavy international duty." The editorial notes the various issues facing U.S. foreign policy that the Clinton administration must solve. It cites the situation in Iran, Somalia, and Yugoslavia.

Touching on Bill Clinton's human rights and democratic diplomacy, the editorial calls on the new U.S. Government to pay more attention to the human rights situation in North Korea in the future. It stresses the need for the two new ROK and U.S. presidents to cooperate with each other in this regard. The editorial concludes by proposing the holding of ROK-U.S. summit talks at an early date.

CHUNGANG ILBO carries on page 3 of its 20 January edition a 700-word editorial entitled "The Opening of the Clinton Era." Praising Clinton's inauguration as "The Beginning of a New U.S. Era," the editorial describes the meaning of the "Clinton era" and the heavy international responsibility that the Clinton administration should assume in the future in the wake of the collapse of communism and the Soviet Union.

The editorial also praises Clinton as "the standard bearer of change," noting his appointment of four black people, four women, and two other minorities to posts in his administration. The editorial, however, notes that Clinton will face many difficulties while trying to solve the difficult U.S. economic situation. The editorial concludes by stressing the need for the two new governments to further deepen ROK-U.S. relations.

CHOSON ILBO carries on page 3 on 21 January a 1,000-word editorial entitled "The Sailing of 'Clinton's America'." Describing Clinton's presidential inauguration ceremony as "a great festival," the paper notes that President Clinton is a leader with a "fresh image" who will lead the United States for the next 4 years. He is expected to "pursue a great deal of change in a bid to satisfy the American people's new hope." It stresses that the tasks of the Bush administration have been carried over to President Clinton. The editorial points out that the greatest burdens to President Clinton are the "trade deficit and the U.S. deficit" in domestic affairs, and "relations with Iraq" in foreign affairs. There also seems to be "no ingenious designs" to solve them, although he has emerged as "embodying innovation" in politics. The paper then expresses "slight" concern that President Clinton, "prompted by excessive ambition forged by his passionate youth," may take "the same reckless course of Former President Carter in the 1980's."

On 21 January, KYONGHYANG SINMUN carries on page 3 a 1,200-word editorial entitled "The Significance of the Clinton Administration's Inauguration." The paper notes that as a postwar generational president, Clinton will seek "great change" unlike Bush. The paper says that Clinton was elected president by putting forward a pledge for a "domestic affairs-first policy" which means the beginning of the "U.S. national interest-first policy." The editorial stresses that this policy, however, should not be carried out at the expense of "excessive burdens to other countries" so that they become "their victims." It calls on the United States to solve all problems based on the "principle of mutual respect and partnership." It notes that Clinton revealed through various channels that there will be no "great changes" in his policy toward the ROK. The paper anticipates "no basic changes" in ROK-U.S. relations since the ROK and the United States have been "traditional allies for more than one century." The editorial points out that since the U.S. Democratic Party's policy consistently demands the "reduction of U.S. forces and an increase in the share of defense costs," the U.S. will for implementing its security commitment to the ROK is "important." The paper calls on the new U.S. Administration not to repeat the "anachronism" of the Carter regime, and hopes that the new leaders of the two countries will sit together at an early date to discuss "matters of mutual interest and cooperative measures."

HANGUK ILBO on 21 January on page 2 carries a 1,000-word editorial entitled "Visions of Clinton's New America." It notes that President Clinton, who came to office with the banner of "change" in the United States, the only superpower of the world, is a "symbol" of liquidation of one era, the paper defines the Clinton administration's inauguration as a "more significant than previous international events." Predicting a start of "a new cold war in international trade," the editorial expresses tensions and concern over this. Paying great attention to the types of changes that may take place in relations between the ROK and the United States—close political and military allies—the editorial hopes that Clinton does not attempt to make a "drastic policy readjustment" as the Carter administration did in the 1970's. Pointing to the trade issue as a "major cause for discord" between the ROK and the United States, the editorial calls on the Clinton administration not to "burden the traditional ROK-U.S. alliance."

TONG-A ILBO on 21 January on page 3 carries a 1,200-word editorial entitled "The New America of a Postwar Generation." Describing Clinton's inauguration as the "opening of a new era," the paper points out his efforts to rebuild the U.S. economy by reducing red figures and by increasing export as "very difficult tasks." The editorial emphasizes that the U.S. continuous fulfillment of its international role as the only superpower of the world is "as important as economic reconstruction." Predicting "no drastic changes" in the basic structure of ROK-U.S. relations even after President Clinton's inauguration, the paper anticipates, however, "considerable changes in security and economic cooperation" between the two countries, including reduction of U.S. forces in Korea and the opening of rice markets. The editorial hopes that the new presidents of the two countries will promote mutual interests through close cooperation, and contribute to the international community.

Challenges Face Clinton

SK2001034493 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 20 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "America's New Beginning"]

[Text] We extend heartfelt welcome to Bill Clinton on his inauguration as the 42nd president of the United States, the world's last superpower. At the same time, we see a host of challenges, both internal and external, lying ahead for the new leader of America.

As the four days of inaugural ceremonies began Sunday with the ringing of "bells of hope" amid the cheers of tens of thousands people, the exuberant Clinton declared that this is the beginning of a renewal and that the occasion was for Americans to demonstrate their national resolve.

Beyond the spate of rhetoric, there is the grave reality represented by the ironical contrast between the fireworks tracing across the Washington sky and the flames of Iraqi targets hit by the U.S.-led allied forces. The inaugural festivity was thus dampened and overshadowed by the continued tension in the Middle East.

Clinton vowed Monday to take a tough stance against Saddam Husayn like that pursued by his predecessor George Bush. He delivered a significant message to the Iraqi leader saying that America's resolve during the transition period will not waiver and the present line will remain American policy after Jan. 20.

The new U.S. President has a firm election commitment to an economy-first policy. But the ongoing threat of further armed confrontation with Iraq has obliged him to throw his policy weight to the settlement of difficult foreign problems.

Clinton, stepping into Bush's shoes, will seek to exercise strong leadership to tackle a host of global issues, including Iraq and Somalia, as well as domestic ones. But even before his taking office, the mass media is already pointing to what appeared to have been policy changes or the breach of election promises.

The Democratic candidate, for example, had pledged during his campaign to reverse the Bush administration policy of forcibly returning Haitians who try to flee to the United States. Clinton has reportedly stated that he will continue the Bush policy for the time being.

The incoming American Administration is called to take the initiative to put an end to the bloodshed in Bosnia. Yet, Clinton seems to be faltering over whether military intervention, and the dispatch of ground troops in particular, should be pursued.

With these and other outstanding problems, the world is concerned about Clinton's lack of experience in the foreign arena. The major tasks of today, namely the shaping of new relationships with the European Community, Russia, East Europe, Japan and other nations, do not seem to allow a period of apprenticeship for the new U.S. chief executive.

On the domestic front, his promised policy priority for the national economy is already being questioned with the delay in the drafting of a 100-day action plan he promised to submit to the Congress for implementation shortly after his inauguration.

He is also heavily burdened by his far-flung promises like cutting the fiscal budget deficit in half, tax policy reform, the cutdown of White House staff by 25 percent and allowing homosexuals into the military, plus the festering abortion issue, to name a few. Many analysts doubt that all these pledges will be kept.

The role of the United States in the post-Cold War era will be much different from that of the past and all precedents set during the decades of bipolar confrontation will be of little help to the new U.S. President under the still rapidly changing geopolitical situation of the world today.

Yet, the key is how to restrain the pursuit of national interests from the leadership position of being the sole superpower. Being the most powerful man of the most powerful country, Bill Clinton is now obliged to meet the expectations from both his own electorate and the world community, in the areas of peace and security and trade and economy.

The advent of the Clinton administration will surely have a considerable impact on this country in political, diplomatic, economic and military aspects, coming on top of a similarly significant power change here. Now comes a good chance of forging a substantially cooperative relationship on the basis of traditional friendship and new recognition of each other's needs.

U.S. Customs Plan Seen Causing 'Edgier' Trade Ties

SK2001031193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0154 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—Trade relations between South Korea and the United States are likely to be edgier from March, when the U.S. Customs Service is certain to reinforce procedures on imports of steel, textiles and footwear, government and trade sources said Wednesday. The customs service has designated textiles, steel, footwear, hats and machine tools as sensitive import items, and increased the complications of the commercial invoice formalities for the exporters of these items, the sources said.

Washington, which also slapped massive anti-dumping charges on foreign steel, including Korean products, last year, is deliberating the move to tighten import regulations to protect U.S. industry, the sources said. The revised customs procedure requires the exporter to offer full information on his products to the U.S. Customs to make item classification easier. For this, commercial invoices should be submitted before the goods are brought in and approved to be taken out, and goods designated as sensitive imports should be identified as such on their invoices, which also should carry detailed information on them.

The amendments were printed in the U.S. OFFICIAL GAZETTE last September, the customs service formally accepted them in November and they are certain to take effect in March. But they have met great opposition from the American Association of Exports and Imports and the U.S. Association of Textile Imports, who complain that they are too complicated and that they could restrict imports. Korean traders also dread another non-tariff barrier to their exports to the United States with the new customs formalities, the sources said.

Police Refuse To Allow Russian Ship To Leave Pusan

SK2001090693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0830 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Pusan, South Korea, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—South Korean police are refusing to let a Russian ore carrier sail from Pusan until they have solved a shooting on board the vessel on Monday. Captain Andrey Doroshenko and his 34-man crew refuse to cooperate with the police, however, leading to a standoff.

On Monday, Nikolay Demin, 37, was spotted disembarking from the 1,449-ton Bureya and walking along the pier. He was observed by customs employee Kim Pang-kyu to be bleeding and Kim called an ambulance to take the sailor to the hospital, where he is being treated for gunshot wounds to the chest, a police spokesman said. The ship entered Pusan port Saturday and was to leave Monday.

The police investigation has stalled because neither the victim nor anyone on the ship will cooperate. Captain Doroshenko has told police that Russia's criminal code obeys the personal principle and not the territorial principle, so the shooting is under his jurisdiction and not that of the Korean police.

The police and prosecution insist that the ship will be held in port as long as it takes for them to complete their investigation. The police have investigated crimes involving Koreans and Russian sailors, but this is the first involving Russians only. to 16,900 people this year.

Board Outlines Plans for Separated Families' Meetings

SK2001023493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0212 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—The National Unification Board is to arrange a meeting place for members of separated families in the truce village of Panmunjom, and exchange groups of elderly people with North Korea this year.

In a written report to President No Tae-u, the board listed its five administrative targets as adjusting reunification policy to domestic and international changes, revitalizing inter-Korean dialogue and institutionalizing exchange and cooperation, actively gathering information on North Korea, and building a national consensus on reunification.

To reinforce economic cooperation with North Korea, the board will boost direct deals on a cutting, making and trimming (CMT) basis, set up pilot joint ventures in light industry, exchange delegations for investment, and expand the South-North cooperation fund.

The board will also seek to exchange culture-art delegations with North Korea on each other's commemorative days, field single Korean teams to international sports events and exchange tourists.

Joint Chiefs Chairman: Combined Army Expected

SK2001063393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0537 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—Gen. Yi Pil-sop, chairman of the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Wednesday that a team would be formed this month to convert Korea's Joint Army into a combined army. Yi told major commanders of counterespionage operations that the conversion to a combined army was desperately needed to make the army economical, maintain a strong command structure during peacetime and enhance efficiency of combined operations.

"The conversion program will respect the characteristics, professionalism and traditions of each service," Yi said. The military also plans to complete preparations this year for taking over peacetime operational control from the United States by the end of 1994, he said

In a combined army, the chairman of the joint chiefs would take over all the power currently exercised by the chiefs. The participants told Yi that there were signs that North Korea was preparing to attack the South. The North has stepped up infiltration exercises involving An-2 light planes and nightly parachute jumps, and is reinforcing reconnaissance patrols to make infiltration routes, they said.

DPRK Premier Kang Song-san Not Seen in Public Since Dec

SK2201021993 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0101 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] North Korean Premier Kang Song-san has not appeared in public since he took office. Kang Song-san was elected premier at North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly on 11 December 1992 and has not appeared in public since.

A relevant ROK Government official said that Kang Song-san's official activities as premier have not been reported. This official also noted that according to information obtained by relevant authorities, Premier Kang Song-san is known to be ill. However, because Premier Kang Song-san has had disagreements with Kim Chong-il's key confidants—including Chang Song-taek, Kim Chong-il's brother-in-law and director of the Three Revolutions Department of the Workers Party—as well as other people, it is possible that there is discord between them again.

Central Bank To Cut Rediscount, Lending Rates

SK2001063093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0553 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—The Central Bank's rediscount rate and commercial banks' lending and deposit rates will be cut between 1-2 percentage points as part of the government's effort to help reinvigorate the economy, Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu said Wednesday. Choe said the Bank of Korea [BOK] would lower rediscount rates for commercial banks and practical measures were under study for interest rate deregulation.

After presiding at a meeting of major economic policymakers, including Finance Minister Yi Yong-man, Trade-Industry Minister Han Pong-su, BOK Governor Cho Sun and Senior Presidential Economic Secretary Yi Chin-sol, Choe told reporters that it had been agreed to cut interest rates because of current business and price conditions. Choe said measures would be taken for non-banking institutions such as short-term financing companies to lower their interest rates, he said.

To work out details, the government would soon launch a task force and finalize the draft in consultation with the Democratic Liberal Party, Choe said.

Choe didn't go into the details, but BOK sources said that the government would consider pulling down the rediscount rate from the current 7 percent to 5-6 percent and enforcing a similar cut on the lending and deposit rates of the commercial banks.

Hyundai Evacuates Employees From Iraq

SK2001090793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0842 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—Eleven of 14 Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co. workers in Iraq have been evacuated and three remain, company officials said Wednesday. Six of the evacuees returned to Seoul on Wednesday and five are still in Jordan waiting to go back to Iraq when conditions settle.

Hyundai officials said the three in Iraq, in charge of managing the construction site and equipment, were safe. Samsung Construction Co. has yet to withdraw its four workers in Iraq.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Interviewed on U.S., UK Ties

BK2101142893 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1300 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said he considered Malaysia's stability as his major achievement in the past 12 years as a prime minister. In an interview with NEWSWEEK INTERNATIONAL, he said Malaysians have been working in a very harmonious manner despite being multilingual, multicultural, and multireligious. [passage omitted]

In the interview which covered several topics, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir was also asked to describe his relationship with the United States. He said the situation was not as bad as it might seem. He said Malaysia spoke very frankly. Clearly, Malaysia had differences of opinion, but it was not as bad as it might seem. He hoped Malaysia's relationship with Washington would be as excellent as the one with Britain. Saying that he had always been forthright, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said the present relationship with Britain flourished even though he introduced a Buy British Last policy when he came to power. [passage omitted]

Japanese Envoy Comments on Supertanker Collision

BK2201122493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1202 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 22 (AFP)—This week's supertanker collision off the northern tip of Indonesia's Sumatera Island is the worst in Southeast Asia involving the constant stream of supertankers which keeps Japan's industrial economy alive, a Tokyo official said Friday.

"As far as I can recollect, this is the biggest collision in this part of the world involving a tanker carrying crude to Japan," said Tomotaka Ito, the transport attache at the Japanese Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

The 254,000-tonne Maersk Navigator, which was carrying more than 200,000 tonnes of crude from the Gulf to Japan, caught fire Thursday after colliding with a Japanese tanker, the Sanko Honour, at the northern entrance of the Strait of Malacca.

The 96,000-tonne Sanko Honour was on its way to the Gulf from Japan to fetch oil when the mishap occurred. Nearly three-quarters of Japan's crude oil comes from the Middle East.

On Friday the Maersk Navigator was reported spilling light crude oil and drifting towards India's Nicobar Islands in the Andaman Sea. Several fires were raging both on the Danish-owned ship and around it.

Ito said that until the collision, a 1975 mishap involving the 116,136-tonne Showa Maru in the Strait of Malacca was the biggest involving a tanker conveying oil to Tokyo.

The Showa Maru was carrying 93,000 tonnes of oil when it ran aground in the Philip Channel south of peninsular Malaysia, Ito said. It had spilled 4,000 tonnes of oil in the busy, narrow strait that separates Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore.

Ito said that as nearly 80 percent of tankers carrying oil from the Gulf to Japan passed the narrow Strait of Malacca, Tokyo had constantly advised shipowners to ensure that tankers adhered to all safety regulations.

"We had told the Japanese Shipowners Association in particular about the imperative need to ensure safety and check pollution," he said.

"Japan spent 200 million Malaysian dollars (80 million U.S.) so far to enhance navigational safety in the Strait of Malacca and we send experts twice a year for maintenance of navigation aids along the waterway," he said.

Ito also said Japan had helped set up an eight million Malaysian dollars (3.2 million U.S.) revolving fund for Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia to help the littoral states clean up oil spills in the Malacca Strait.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad had asked Japanese counterpart Kiichi Miyazawa during the latter's visit to Kuala Lumpur recently to consider giving more assistance to the littoral states for such action.

Malaysia made the request because Japanese vessels were among the major users of the 1,000 kilometre (625 mile) waterway which has seen an increasing number of collisions and oil spills in recent months, officials said.

"If there is a major oil spill as a result of the recent collision, Japan would consider providing assistance to Indonesia and Malaysia to combat it," Ito said.

Commentary Views Miyazawa's ASEAN Visit, Talks

BK2001133593 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] An important event took place in Washington today with the installation of Mr. Bill Clinton as the new President of the United States. In another part of the world, in East Asia, one concern is about the future course of relations between Japan and the countries of this region.

It is encouraging that the visit of the Japanese prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, to four ASEAN countries during the past week, has ended on a promising note for the state of the economic security of Southeast Asia.

At all his stops in Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Bandar Seri Begawan, Mr. Miyazawa emphasized the need for the leaders of Japan and ASEAN to focus on building an area in which the countries dedicated to free trade can bring about greater cooperation among themselves to ensure continued prosperity in the East Asian region. What is of particular relevance is the pledge by the visiting premier that Japan will play and act together with ASEAN. He was forthright in his statement that the end of the cold war has sharpened the consensus of the Southeast Asian nations over the realities and concerns of the region. The Japanese leader's statements are indeed reassuring in the present context of the world economic situation and the presence of a global trading system. There has been general disillusionment on the stalemate in the GATT talks to determine the course of future world trade.

While countries of East Asia have already opened markets to free and open global trade to keep pace in the Uruguay Round, namely the U.S. and EC are stalling on the question of farm subsidies. They seem to be paying greater attention to the establishment of the European single market and the North American Free Trade Agreement which for all intents and purposes are seen to be protectionist in nature and intended to look after their own interests. In the present scenario, Asia and East Asia are naturally concerned over the future flow of investment and technology transfer from the developed countries, including Japan, to whom they look forward for assistance for their continued development and progress.

Mr. Miyazawa has promised that Japan will continue to promote the investment and trade flows. That is a welcome sign. Above all else, it is more heartening to note that Japan is determined to give its full support for the dynamic growth of the ASEAN economies. Both Japan and ASEAN are keenly interested in the developments in the Indochina region. They are of the hope that there will be an early end to the Cambodian conflict. The prosperity and economic reconstruction of Indochina will be in line with the aspirations of ASEAN to establish a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality, or Zopfan, of the entire region.

Japan's participation towards the realization of these dreams will be most welcome. It is also Malaysia's and ASEAN's hope that Japan will give its go-ahead to the proposal for the creation of the East Asia Economic Caucus or EAEC. Much has been talked about this subject and does not need to be elaborated further. As it has been repeatedly stressed, it is known to be a consultative forum to discuss economic matters of mutual concern. Despite U.S. objection there is a lot that can be accomplished by the promotion of the caucus.

Malaysia and her ASEAN partners are honored to have played host to Mr. Miyazawa and his delegation. We are confident that fruitful results will issue from the visit.

Reportage on Constitutional Amendment Process

Mahathir Proposes Special Court

BK1801090693 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Excerpt] The government has agreed to the creation of a special court to try Malay rulers. This was disclosed by Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir to newsmen in Kuala Lumpur. Earlier, he briefed members of Parliament of the ruling Barisan Nasional [National Front] parties at a [word indistinct] meeting.

A special two-day sitting of Parliament to debate the constitutional amendment bill opened this afternoon. The Dewan Rakyat or House of Representatives meets today and tomorrow and the Dewan Negara or Senate the day after that. The government is not expected to face any difficulties in securing the two-thirds majority needed to pass the bill. Apart from the solid support of MP's from the ruling parties, the bill will probably get the backing of the majority of the opposition members.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said the government will make an amendment to provide for the setting up of a special court to try Malay rulers. However, the principles of no legal immunity for rulers in their personal capacity remain. They will be subjected to ordinary laws. The prime minister said the original draft of the bill and the amendments proposed by the rulers will be tabled in a special sitting of Parliament. The other amendments agreed to by the government include one that provides for the king to chair the Pardons Board if any of the state governors is involved. In the original draft, the Pardons Board was to be chaired by the chief minister of the state.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said the amendments did not change the character of the bill. The bill seeks to add five provisions to the Federal Constitution and amend two articles. The provisions proposed are Articles 38 (2b), 42 (12), 63 (5), 72 (5), and 181 (3), while those to be amended are Articles 32 and 181 (2).

In general, the amendments (?under) the bill seek to abolish the legal immunity enjoyed by the rulers in their personal capacity, transfer their powers of pardon to the Conference of Rulers in certain cases, and enable MPs and state assemblymen to debate on matters concerning the rulers so long as their statements are not aimed at abolishing the institution of rulers. [passage omitted]

Parliament Passes Bill

BK1901153493 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1500 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Excerpt] The Parliament this evening passed a bill to amend the federal Constitution aimed at removing the rulers' legal immunity. The bill was tabled in parliament yesterday by Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir. As many as 137 members of Parliament voted for the passage of the bill. There was no vote against the bill, but 16 members of Parliament had abstained. The result of the voting was announced by House Speaker Tan Sri Mohamed Zahir Ismail. [passage omitted]

Rulers' Private Lives No Longer 'Taboo'

BK1901102893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0827 GMT 19 Jan 93

[By Barani Krishnaan]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 19 (AFP)—Royal scoops, an obsession more familiar with Britain's racy press that hounds its monarchs for juicy details of their private lives, is catching on in Malaysia.

Open discussions of royal privileges have long been taboo in this Asian nation, one of the few democratic countries which has insisted on maintaining its monarchy as symbolic protectors of indigenous Malay rights.

Malaysia's nine hereditary rulers, who take turns every five years to become king, are above the law and the Constitution bans anyone from questioning their conduct and privileges.

But all that looks set to change.

With Parliament debating a bill Tuesday to amend the Constitution to bring errant rulers to court and facilitate complaints on their actions, the gag on reports of royal misdeeds in Malaysia's media is officially being lifted.

The press has already started savouring its new-found freedom.

Over the past two months, local newspapers and television stations have been outdoing one another to report on royal abuse of public funds, pressuring government officers for favours and mistreating commoners.

Ahmad Shah Abu Bakar, sultan of eastern Pahang State, reportedly spends some 4,000 Malaysian dollars (1,600 U.S.) a day on his horses—the equivalent of a middle-management executive's monthly salary here.

He was also said to have been awarded nearly 270 million Malaysian dollars (108 million U.S.) worth of timber concessions by the government over the last four years, most of which are believed to have been sold to businessmen for quick profits.

The sultan's reported possessions include a fleet of luxury cars, a private plane, and a stable of nearly 200 South American horses to support his passion for polo.

Tuanku Jaafar Tuanku Abdul Rahman, ruler of southwestern Negri Sembilan State, is reportedly constructing a two-million dollar holiday complex for his family on a popular beach that is jeopardising tourism and the environment.

Sultan Mahmood Iskandar, the 60-year old ruler of southern Johore State, was reported to have several helicopters and his own paramilitary force, among other luxuries.

Some 120 million dollars in allowances is allocated annually to rulers and their family members from national coffers, not counting other forms of concessions.

A senior government official said although the media attack was expected to soften once the amendments were passed in parliament, "it is unlikely that things will ever be the same again."

"The press will have their freedom, so the rulers better behave," the official said.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad went ahead to table the bill in Parliament Monday in defiance of an unanimous decision to reject the move by the nine rulers, a move that threatens to plunge the nation into a constitutional crisis if the impasse is not resolved.

Minister: Royalty Could Be Toppled

BK2001094893 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] The deputy prime minister, Mr. Ghafar Baba, said whether the institution of rulers is maintained in the country depends on the attitude of the rulers themselves. He said rulers should realize that although their position is protected by the Constitution, there are other means to destroy the institution if the people are challenged. Mr. Ghafar was tabling the constitutional amendment bill to limit the legal immunity of the Malay rulers in the Upper House of Parliament this afternoon. The bill was passed by the Lower House yesterday.

Mr. Ghafar said that if the rulers wanted to be loved by the people, they should bow to their wishes and ensure that the institution is maintained. He said allegations that the monarchy will be abolished if their immunity is taken away are baseless. There are no provisions in the present law to do away with the system. The monarchy can only be abolished through a revolution and if the Constitution is set aside.

Rulers To Lose Perks

BK2001154993 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1500 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] The cabinet today decided to withdraw all perks and privileges extended to the Malay rulers not provided for in the constitution and law. The prime minister said the decision was taken because the government is of the opinion that the Malay rulers only adhere to the law without taking the constitution into account. As such, the government has to take a similar measure.

All the perks and privileges which have been extended to the Malay rulers will also be withdrawn. Dr. Mahathir said this to newsmen at the VIP lounge in the Parliament building.

Without detailing the perks and privileges which will be withdrawn, the prime minister said all this while the government has not really taken into account all the privileges which were over-extended to the rulers. However, the government will only extend those privileges which have been stated in writing.

The Upper House tonight passed the federal constitutional amendment with all 57 senators voting in favor of the amendment. The constitutional amendment will be presented to His Majesty the Yang Dipertuan Agong [paramount ruler] Sultan Azlan Shah to obtain his royal assent. If the amendment is not given the royal assent within 15 days, the Lower House will be forced to hold another session and the constitutional amendment will be presented for debate. His majesty the king can express his opinions concerning the amendment when it is handed back to the House of Parliament. If the House approves the amendment, the king has a 30-day grace period to give his assent, failing which the amendment will automatically become law.

Winding the debate, Mr. Ghafar Baba said a draft amendment will be tabled during the upcoming parliamentary session in April to outline the functions and composition of a Special Court. The Special Court will be headed by the Lord President. The Lord President will appoint a judge while the Council of Rulers will appoint another judge.

Sultan Calls For Boycott

BK2201131293 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 21 Jan 93 p 1

[Excerpt] Johor Baru, Wed.—The sultan of Johor has told civil servants, including district officers, assistant district officers, and penghulu [village headman] in the state, to boycott all functions organised by the federal and state Governments.

The sultan has also asked these officers to stay away from any functions attended by Menteri Besar [Chief Minister] Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

The sultan gave these directives at a dinner at Istana [Palace] Bukit Serene last night. Guests included imam and other religious officials and officers of the Mado Group of companies, the Johor royal family's business entity.

State Government officials said the sultan had also asked those present to inform the rakyat [people] about his stand on the amendments to the Federal Constitution. The amendments were approved by the Dewan Rakyat [House of Representatives] and Dewan Negara [Senate].

Today, the sultan hosted a luncheon at the istana attended by about 50 federal heads of government department and executives from statutory bodies.

Johor has seven district officers and 98 penghulu, all of whom are on the state payroll.

The lunch had a twist of drama to it as well. State Secretary Datuk Abdul Rahim Ramli, who signed the invitation, had telefaxed it to federal and state officers, advising them to be properly attired for the function.

According to the invitation which was dated Jan 19, 1993, Muslims were required to wear baju Melayu [Malay costumes] or lounge suit and songkok [Malay cap].

When the Prime Minister's Department learnt about the lunch invitation, it telefaxed an advisory telling federal department staff that they need not attend the function.

However, some of those who attended said they were not aware of the advisory. The menteri besar and state executive councillors were, however, not invited.

Commenting on the dinner and lunch, Muhyiddin said: "We have sources saying that these functions are being used to spread some sort of message from the palace."

State Government officials believed that both functions could have been used by the sultan to give his views on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill.

Muhyiddin said the state secretary's role in directing civil servants to attend several gatherings to meet the sultan would be examined in detail. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

Spokesmen on Election, Khmer Rouge Proposal

BK2001080193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] On 19 January at an international hotel, Uch Kim-an, Khieu Kanharit, and General Pan Thai, spokesmen of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government, held a weekly news conference with the participation of local and foreign reporters and television crew, and representatives of various embassies in Cambodia.

On this occasion, Uch Kim-an clearly specified the SOC Government's stance, saying that it welcomed the 15 January ASEAN statement on the presidential and consituent assembly elections in Cambodia. He said the ASEAN statement is similar to the earlier SOC initiative. Uch Kim-an also talked about His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen's recent meeting with His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Beijing. At this meeting, H.E. Chairman Hun Sen informed the prince that the presidential election should be held on Monday, 5 April—that is, four weeks before the constituent assembly election.

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] and Cambodia's head of state, has agreed to the date. Uch Kim-an added that so far all parties, except the Khmer Rouge, seem to have agreed on this and that only the date remains to be discussed. He recalled the SOC stance supporting HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk's presidential candidacy.

Concerning military activities, General Pan Thai, personal adviser to the Prime Minister, said that during the past week the Khmer Rouge had continued to shell people's villages and bases of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, Battambang, Kompong Cham, Kompong Thom, and Kampot Provinces.

General Pan Thai also specified that the attack on the voter registration office in Angkrong village, Sot Nikom district, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, was carried out by the Khmer Rouge's Division 980.

Talking about the fight against terrorist activities and political violence against offices of various political parties, Khieu Kanharit said H.E. Hun Sen and UNTAC Chief Yasushi Akashi had discussed the protection of political parties' offices last week. The main thing is that if we allow the SOC police to guard the offices of various political parties, this can be seen as pressuring the people to not contact these offices. What should be discussed is what measures the UNTAC and SOC should now take to cooperate and protect the offices of political parties and at the same time put the various accusations to rest.

Concerning the Khmer Rouge proposal to set up a quadripartite army and a quadripartite police force, Khieu Kanharit specified that mixed military working groups and mixed security groups have been set up at the national and regional levels among various political parties to exchange information on armed banditry. Khieu Kanharit added that if they are not careful, this would lead to the establishment of a quadrtipartite government before the election. Therefore, the Khmer Rouge proposal is not necessary and it is contrary to the Paris agreement.

Sihanouk on Talks With Alatas, Elections

BK2201015293 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 21 Jan 93

["Report to the Cambodian People" issued by Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Beijinng on 20 January—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Today from 1000 to 1230, I cordially held an important political discussion with His Excellency [H.E.] Ali Alatas, Indonesian foreign minister and cochairman of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, and his close aides. The following is the summary of the statement that I honorably made to H.E. Ali Alatas and his high-level delegation.

1. Concerning the issue of presidential elections in Cambodia, the party of Their Excellencies Chea Sim and Hun Sen has proposed that it be held on 5 April 1993, that is, about one month ahead of the legislative elections for a national assembly.

In my opinion, the presidential election is not really important for me since I already know that the Cambodian people's deep sentiment and (?attachment) for me will remain unchanged although the schedule for presidential elections is delayed to a maximum extent. If I am needed, however, to efficiently assist UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and help other people responsible for the general situation in Cambodia to improve the situation and place the legislative elections in a (?more) neutral, peaceful, and secure environment, I, as the Cambodian head of state elected by the Cambodian people, need one month or at least two or three weeks prior to the legislative elections to execute my presidential authority in order to save as much as possible the present worst and most dangerous general situation and to prevent other great dangers to the elections in the future.

At present, I am aware that some foreign milieus and political parties want a maximum delay in the presidential election. They are afraid that I will have too much power and influence before the appointment of a new prime minister and that if I were elected as the Cambodian head of state by the Cambodian people, I would, in agreement with the party of Their Excellencies Chea Sim and Hun Sen, prevent the planned holding of the legislative election, expel UNTAC from Cambodia, and lead Cambodia according to an autocracy with H.E. Hun Sen as my prime minister and H.E. Chea Sim as my national assembly chairman. The fear is indeed ridiculous. Since 18 March 1970 when a coup d'etat was staged by the Lon Nol-Sirimatak clique against Sihanouk and the Cambodian monarchy, I have persistently denounced the coup's illegitimacy and opposed its Constitution.

As implacable enemy of a coup d'etat, I will never stage any coup against UNTAC, the UNTAC-organized legislative election, any other Cambodian political parties, or any other individuals.

2. Some foreign governments want the formation of a provisional quadripartite government during the present transitional period. Such a government cannot be established because the major party of Their Excellencies Chea Sim and Hun Sen is completely opposed to the idea. Besides, the formation of such a government is undoubtedly a violation of the essence and spirit of the Paris 23 October 1991 accord. Therefore, what we should do is to help UNTAC and the cochairmen of the Paris conference on Cambodia to complete their mission in Cambodia. The legislative elections should be held as scheduled and a new government should be from a new national assembly, the true representative of the sovereign Cambodian people.

3. If I am elected president or head of state of Cambodia by the beloved and respected Cambodian people, I will act in the political field as follows:

a. I will appoint as prime minister any leader whose party has won the most seats in the National Assembly.

It is only the National Assembly that has the power to nominate and dissolve the national government of Cambodia.

b. The president or head of state of Cambodia elected through general elections will automatically become the supreme commander of the Cambodian Army. Therefore, I will accept being the commander of the armies of the parties that recognize me as the legitimate head of state in Cambodia.

At the beginning, I will not dissolve, then merge together the armed forces of various parties, but I will place them under the command of a mixed general staff composed of an equal number of generals and senior and junior officers from all parties. I will be the chief of the mixed general staff and have under my supreme command an equal number of deputy chiefs from the parties that have troops. Later, I will consider the creation of a unified army for Cambodia.

c. With regard to the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea of the Khmer Rouge, I will patiently carry on negotiations with them so as to coax them, through any possible means, not to divide Cambodia, but to join society and nation.

A new Cambodian national government with the participation of the PDK is possible, but nothing should prematurely be done.

My beloved compatriots, please, accept my warmest greetings and most affectionate and sincere sentiments.

[Dated] Beijing, 20 January 1993.

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk.

Sihanouk Rejects Idea of Interim Government

HK2101105793 Hong Kong AFP in English 1039 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Beijing, Jan 21 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk has rejected the idea of forming an interim government in Cambodia, pending general elections in April or May, if he becomes the country's president.

"Such a government is not possible," said Sihanouk in a statement issued in Beijing Thursday.

Sihanouk, head of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC], said the government now in place in Phnom Penh headed by Prime Minister Hun Sen was also opposed to setting up such a government.

Such a move would constitute "an undoubted violation" of the Paris peace accord of 1991, said Sihanouk.

"Legislative elections must go ahead as planned and a new government formed from the new national assembly, the true representative of the Cambodian people," he said.

Without naming anyone, he also denounced "various outsiders" who hoped to hinder the presidential election process fearing that once elected he would behave like an "autocrat".

"I will need a month, or at least two or three weeks, before legislative elections," he added.

The prince, who lives in Beijing where he is undergoing medical treatment, made the remarks after a meeting Wednesday with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, co-chairman of the Paris peace talks.

Sihanouk said that if he were elected president, he would designate as prime minister the leader of the party which won the most seats in the national assembly.

He also anticipated entering "patient and repeated negotiations" with the Khmer Rouge, to persuade them to end the division in Cambodia and "reintegrate the national community".

Sihanouk does not envisage combining the various armies of the four factions of the SNC—the Phnom Penh government, the Khmer Rouge, nationalists and his own supporters.

But, he said, they would be placed under the authority of a central military command comprising an equal number of officers from the different armies.

Australia's Evans, Indondesia's Alatas Arrive

BK2201061693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Two key players in the Cambodian peace agreement have arrived in the capital, Phnom Penh, for meetings aimed at saving the stalled peace process. Evan Williams reports Australia foreign minister, Gareth Evans, and his Indonesian counterpart, Ali Alatas, who cochaired the peace agreement talks, are due to meet United Nations and Cambodian factional leaders.

[Begin recording] [Williams] Arriving in Phnom Penh, Gareth Evans said he is not surprised by the Khmer Rouge rejection of plans for an early presidential poll and he remained behind the move as a possible path toward increased stability. He said the stalled peace accord could leave parts of Cambodia outside the new goverment's control, but that need not inhibit effective management. While concerned by growing political violence, Senator Evans said it should be brought under control, but it is not sufficient to disrupt the elections.

[Evans] I think it is clear that there is a very real commitment on the part of the UN, the international community, and indeed, the participating parties to see the election process through. And I don't think anyone is going to be intimidated in the present circumstances from proceeding with those elections. [end recording]

Alatas: KR 'Will Not' Take Part in Elections

BK2101114293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1129 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Bangkok, Jan 21 (AFP)—The radical Khmer Rouge [KR] will not participate in any elections held in Cambodia under the present conditions, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told reporters here Thursday.

Alatas had met earlier in the day with Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan.

"I regret to inform you that Mr. Khieu Samphan remains of the view that under the present conditions, especially because of the non-implementation of the Paris agreement (on Cambodia), the Khmer Rouge could not rejoin the peace process and could not as of now participate in elections," Alatas said.

He said the Marxist guerrilla group had not accepted the proposal by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to hold presidential elections in Cambodia just before the general elections, which are set for May. [passage omitted]

Alatas arrived here last night from Beijing where he met with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who formerly ruled Cambodia and now is its most widely backed candidate for president.

Alatas flies to Phnom Penh on Friday to meet with leaders of the Cambodian government.

KR 'Flatly' Rejects Participation

BK2201030393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Jan 93 pp A1-A2

[Excerpt] The Khmer Rouge [KR] flatly rejected participation in either the proposed presidential election or the scheduled May general elections in Cambodia, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said yesterday after failing to bring the intransigent guerrilla faction back into the peace process.

"I regret to inform you that Mr Khieu Samphan remains of the view that under the present conditions, especially because of the non- implementation of the Paris agreement [on Cambodia] the Khmer Rouge could not rejoin the peace process and could not as of now participate in elections," Alatas said.

He said the Marxist guerrilla group had not accepted the proposal by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to hold presidential elections in Cambodia just before the general elections, which are set for May.

However, the presidential election could go ahead without the Khmer Rouge's participation, as long as it had the approval of the Supreme National Council (SNC) and the UN Security Council, which sponsored the peace agreement.

The SNC was due to meet later this month in Beijing and the Khmer Rouge had said it would attend the meeting

Khmer Rouge opposition would not prevent the presidential election going ahead, Alatas said. He pointed out the Khmer Rouge had also opposed the SNC majority decision to ban log exports.

He also did not rule out the possibility that by-elections could be held in the Khmer Rouge zones after the May elections if the faction agreed.

Alatas, who is co-chairman of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC) said he had exhausted all possible avenues during his two and a half hours of talks with Khieu, including pleading that national reconciliation would be in Cambodia's best interests.

However, Khieu had remained firm on his position, he said.

"There is a consistency in his position—if the conditions are not conducive for the May election, how can they be for the presidential election," Alatas said.

Alatas, however, said he hoped the Khmer Rouge would refrain from disrupting elections held without its participation.

"Not participating is one thing. Putting up obstacles to the elections is another," he said.

Alatas, who is also ASEAN's key peace negotiator on Cambodia, has already been to Beijing for talks with Prince Norodom Sihanouk and China's Deputy Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin.

He has also met with Prince Norodom Ranariddh, head of the Royalist Funcinpec party in Cambodia, and Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri.

Alatas was to leave for Phnom Penh today for discussions with government leaders, Son Sann of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), UNTAC civilian chief Yasushi Akashi and Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans, who will also be in Phnom Penh.

Alatas said general agreement was emerging that a presidential election should be held before the May election. Prince Sihanouk, who was expected to be elected as president, preferred that it be held two or three weeks earlier, to allow him time to consolidate his position .

He quoted Sihanouk as saying that he would contribute his utmost by talking to all political parties, including the Khmer Rouge, and urging an end to violence to bring about a neutral political environment.

"Sihanouk will continue to keep contact with the Khmer Rouge and negotiate with them to find ways to avoid the factional partition of Cambodia and persuade them to rejoin the peace process," said Alatas.

Alatas said Chinese officials had expressed support for a presidential election, as long as it did not diminish the importance of the May general election.

Alatas said there was a need to define the scope of Sihanouk's power as president and his relation to the SNC and UNTAC.

He said Sihanouk had said he wanted just enough authority to perform his job effectively, not dictatorial or autocratic authority.

However, Sihanouk had made it clear he would not allow other people to decide his powers as president by writing limitations into the constitution, which will be compiled after the May election.

Under the Paris peace agreement, signed by the four warring factions, the SNC will delegate authority to UNTAC to impose a constitution on Cambodia if the governing body cannot come to an agreement.

Alatas reiterated ASEAN's position that Sihanouk's authority needed to be reinforced to ensure some measure of stability in Cambodia immediately prior to and after the May election.

He said there was a chance byelections could be held in the Khmer Rouge controlled areas after the May election, as suggested by UN Secretary General Butrus-Butrus Ghali in earlier reports to the Security Council. [passage omitted]

KR: Proposed Elections 'Trick'

BK2201050893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0442 GMT 22 Jan 93

[By Charles Antoine de Nerciat]

[Excerpt] Bangkok, Jan 22 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge [KR] described Friday planned internationally organised elections in Cambodia as a "trick" aimed at keeping their bitter foes, the Phnom Penh government, in power in the war-ravaged southeast Asian country.

The charge, the first direct condemnation by the radical Marxist guerrilla faction of upcoming presidential and general polls in Cambodia, came in a radio commentary which also blasted next month's visit by French President Francois Mitterrand to Hanoi and Phnom Penh.

The broadcast was monitored here.

During his trip to Vietnam and Cambodia, Mitterrand would discuss the role to be played by Vietnam's forces in Cambodia and offer to meet "some of the cost" of maintaining Hanoi troops to fight the guerrillas, the Khmer Rouge claimed.

Mitterrand was set to discuss ways "to destroy the Khmer Rouge by force" as well as to shunt the guerrilla faction aside politically by resorting to "the trick" of presidential and general elections aimed at keeping the Phnom Penh government in power, the faction's radio said. [passage omitted]

Friday's Khmer Rouge commentary was the first direct rejection of the polls by the group, whose bloody rule over Cambodia was ended in 1979 by Vietnam's invasion of the country. [passage omitted]

According to well informed sources, Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan has told Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Prince Sihanouk's son and the head of the FUNCINPEC party, that residents in Khmer Rouge-controlled areas wanting to cast their votes for the royalist group would not be stopped from doing so.

Prince Ranariddh's faction, one of two smaller guerrilla groups which were allied to the Khmer Rouge against Phnom Penh during the Cambodia war, is widely seen as likely to score significantly in the elections because of Prince Sihanouk's popularity.

Envoys Support Japanese Plan for Elections

OW2201094993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0929 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan. 22 KYODO—Japan's ambassador to Cambodia has proposed holding Cambodian presidential elections two weeks before general elections slated for May, diplomatic sources in Phnom Penh said Friday.

Participants in a 10-nation ambassadors conference reportedly supported Yukio Imagawa's proposal—dubbed the "Imagawa Plan"—unanimously. The ambassadors represented the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, as well as Indonesia, Thailand, Australia and Germany.

They decided to give it an official okay at an ambassadors' conference in Beijing on January 27 and then submit it the next day to a meeting of the Supreme National Council (SNC), Cambodia's national reconciliation body that groups the four rival factions.

If the SNC, headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, accepts the Imagawa proposal, a concrete schedule will be sent to the U.N. for approval. Sihanouk has said he would be a candidate for president.

The U.N.-brokered Paris peace accord scheduled general elections in May, but does not provide for a presidential election. The idea of an elected president, however, has gained wide support as perhaps being the best chance of unifying the nation.

The need for Sihanouk to return to Cambodia soon, since he is believed to be a political figure acceptable to all four factions, prompted Imagawa to come forward with his plan, the sources said.

Sihanouk left for the Chinese capital last November and has not returned since, officially because he is recovering from an illness, but observers widely interpret his absence as a sign of dissatisfaction with developments in Cambodia.

Numerous violations of the ceasefire, increasing incidents of political harassment, kidnappings of U.N. personnel, and killings of Vietnamese residents have aroused fears of renewed fighting in the country.

According to SNC sources, Sihanouk has made presidential elections before the May general elections a prerequisite for his return to Cambodia. The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in the past promoted holding both elections on the same day for budgetary reasons.

Concerned with the deteriorating domestic situation, UNTAC head Yasushi Akashi, however, has signaled that he approves of the Imagawa Plan and confirmed that election preparations can be finished within that time frame, the sources said.

They said they expect the Phnom Penh government to go with the multinational proposal as Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen himself suggested an even earlier April 5 date for a presidential election in a recent meeting with Sihanouk in Beijing.

The Khmer Rouge guerrillas, the only faction that refuses to abide by the peace accord and disarm its fighters, do not support general elections and are not expected to participate in a presidential election. But, the sources said, they will not oppose Sihanouk's candidacy.

Mitterrand Said Planning Visit to Hanoi

BK2201103193 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 0800 GMT 22 Jan 93

["Report on French President's Visit to Vietnam and Phnom Penh"]

[Text] According to informed sources in Phnom Penh and Paris, French President Mitterrand will visit Hanoi to discuss the issue of bilateral relations and the Cambodian problem. The reliable sources say that, with regard to the Cambodian problem, Mitterrand will take the initiative in asking the Yuon [Vietnamese] to play an important military role in Cambodia so as to settle the Khmer Rouge problem, prepare the Yuon puppets for playing a role in Cambodia, and include other parties, except the Khmer Rouge, in the Yuon puppets' regime. Also concerning the same issue, Mitterrand will discuss with the Yuon whether they may play the military role during this dry season in different ways, means, and forms. And if this is feasible, France will provide some financial support. Also, France will tell the Yuon that it will give the funds in its capacity as an ally.

So Mitterrand's trip to Vietnam is to discuss:

1. The issue of crushing the Khmer Rouge via military means and deceitful elections so as to keep one party. And through this, other parties will be included in the puppet regime by means of general elections or a presidential election.

2. The issue of urging the Yuon to focus on carrying out military activities in order to eliminate the Khmer Rouge. The French ally will bankroll the Yuon for the operation.

The reports also disclose that Mitterrand's trip to Phnom Penh is essentially to organize the legislative elections and presidential election during the current situation in which the Paris 23 October 1991 accord has not yet been implemented, the old and new Yuon forces are still everywhere in Cambodia, the Yuon puppets' regime is still running all affairs in Cambodia, and the Supreme National Council is still without any role.

Assembly To Discuss Constitutional Amendments

BK2201133893 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Jan 93

["Communique"]

[Text] The office of the National Assembly of the State of Cambodia would like to inform the general public that the 24th session of the First National Assembly will be held at the National Assembly's conference hall on 25 January 1993.

During this meeting, the National Assembly will discuss and adopt economic and financial plans for the 1993 fiscal year, amendments to some articles of the Constitution, and a number of bills concerning the judicial and financial sectors and the common statutes of civil servants. The National Assembly will also discuss a number of urgent issues relating to the implementation of the peace agreement.

Hun Sen Receives New Zealand Deputy Minister

BK1601073293 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0402 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 16 Jan (SPK)—Hun Sen, prime minister of the State of Cambodia [SOC] and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, met in Phnom Penh on Wednesday Graham Fortune, deputy minister of foreign affairs and trade of New Zealand, who is on a visit to Cambodia as head of a delegation.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Hun Sen informed his guests on the current position of the SOC to restart the peace process and the preparations for the general elections planned for next May. He stressed the refusal by one Cambodian faction to abide by the agreement and said that the recent resolutions of the UN Security Council on Cambodia have not yet been enforced.

He also informed the New Zealand Deputy Minister on the country's current situation and the international context concerning the search for peace in Cambodia.

Hun Sen also recalled the four-point proposal of the statement he made at the news conference held on 5 January in Phnom Penh.

Chea Sim Receives New Zealand Delegation

BK1501090793 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] On the morning of 14 January at the office of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP Central Committee, National Assembly, and the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense's National Council, granted an audience to a foreign affairs and trade delegation from New Zealand led by H.E. (Graham Fostine), under-secretary of state for foreign affairs and trade of New Zealand.

On that occasion, after warmly welcoming the delegation, H.E. Chea Sim spoke on the outcome of the implementation of the Paris peace agreement saying that the State of Cambodia [SOC] has correctly implemented the agreement by closely cooperating with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia].

H.E. Chea Sim informed the guests of the difficulties in the peace agreement's implementation due to the Khmer Rouge refusal to take part in the implementation. The Khmer Rouge have continued to commit violations and attacks on the SOC faction and have shelled villages and UNTAC poll registration offices, damaging property and casualties.

H.E. Chea Sim also thanked the international community and countries across the world, including New Zealand, for supporting the peace process for the Cambodian people.

In his reply, (Graham Fostine) expressed great joy at being able to see the progress in Cambodia made under the leadership of the CPP and SOC Government. He also supported the SOC for their correct implementation of the peace agreement by closely cooperating with UNTAC. He voiced solidarity with the SOC Government's support for Prince Norodom Sihanouk's candidacy in the presidential election to be held prior to the constituent assembly election.

Hun Sen Receives French Parliamentary Delegation

BK1601073893 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 16 Jan (SPK)—Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia [SOC], [words indistinct].

The French parliamentarians are visiting Cambodia to gather information, particularly on the preparations for the general election next May. They are led by Mr Brocard, who is in charge of the National Defense Commission.

Prime Minister Hun Sen briefed his guests on the current situation in Cambodia and on the boycott of the Paris peace agreement by the Khmer Rouge since the signing of the agreement in October 1991.

He recalled UN resolutions on sanctions against the Khmer Rouge aimed at bringing them back to the peace plan and the four-point proposal he presented on 5 January at a news conference in Phnom Penh expressing the position of peace and national reconciliation of the State of Cambodia.

Hor Namhong Thanks SRV Minister for Greeting

BK1601043493 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Hor Namhong recently sent a message of thanks to H.E. Nguyen Manh Cam, foreign minister of the SRV. The message says in essence:

I would like to express most profound thanks for the best wishes you sent me on the 14th anniversary of the State of Cambodia's national day. I firmly believe that the traditional relations, solidarirty, and Cambodia-Vietnam cooperation, particularly between our two Foreign Ministries, will be constantly strengthened and expanded for the benefit of our two people as well as the entire Southeast Asian region.

I would like to wish you good health and new successes in your noble task.

Indonesia

Clinton Inauguration, Presidency Previewed

BK2001033693 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Bill Clinton, who won the presidential election last November, will be sworn in before the Congress as the new President of the United States on Wednesday. Observers from all over the world are eagerly awaiting the event because they feel that following his inauguration, there will be an opportunity for major issues to be properly handled. However, his inauguration remarks are expected to last only last 20 minutes and the speech will be just an overture. In the meantime, what the world observers are more eagerly waiting for is Clinton's State of the Union Address before the Congress which probably will be delivered in the middle of next month.

In his presidential election campaign last November, Clinton, who was running as a Democrat Party candidate, managed to defeat President George Bush, who was re-elected by the Republican Party to run in the election again to secure a second term of office. Clinton's election campaign pledges focused mainly on issues relating to the economy, health services, and political reforms. However, world observers are giving priority to whether or not Clinton's voters will demand that he seriously deliver on his election campaign pledges after residing in the White House. So the main question is: Will Clinton the president be the same as Clinton the presidential candidate?

Likewise, the presentation of a drama with a good title, director, leading and supporting actors could not determine the success of the stage play. In this connection, the success of the political game at the White House is yet to be seen. Traditionally, local observers in the United States itself will reserve some time to give an opportunity to the new president to perform his duty for the first 12 months. Still, what local observers expect very much from President Clinton is that he will be a person who loves to hold debates and discussion on policies.

President Clinton has brought about several achievements and hopes. But in the United States, a president will only be termed as successful if he is able to secure two terms of office. Since the end of World War II, there has been no President of the United States from the Democratic Party who managed to stay for two terms of office. Only General Eisenhower and Reagan from the Republican Party were successful in holding on to the post for two terms.

Iraqi Cease-Fire Offer, U.S. Response Viewed

BK2201075893 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 22 Jan 93

[From the "Press Review"]

[Text] PIKIRAN RAKYAT says that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's political strategy is a brilliant one. His offer for a cease-fire on the same day of Bill Clinton's inauguration as the 42d President of the United States is intended to embarrass George Bush.

Although the U.S. is still giving the offer a cold response, Saddam Husayn's cease-fire offer has managed to draw world sympathy.

Commission Views U.S. Withdrawal of Military Aid

BK2101155693 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Indonesia does not expect U.S. military educational assistance to resume in 1993 after it was revoked last year because of the East Timor problem.

Speaking to newsmen in Jakarta this morning, Parliamentary Commission I chief, Aishah Amini, said Indonesia is only willing to receive military educational assistance when the U.S. Government willingly and unconditionally extends that assistance. As such, Indonesia will reject all forms of foreign assistance if they are found to interfere in the country's internal affairs.

Meanwhile, Parliamentary Commission I member Theo Sambuaga said Indonesia should not make any request from the U.S. for such assistance to be continued even though the country has a new president.

Major-General Sembiri Nuryala, representing ABRI's [Indonesian Armed Forces] parliamentary faction, said even though the U.S. assistance has stopped, ABRI has constantly modernized its armed forces according to current high-tech developments in military equipment. He played down any hopes for U.S. assistance to be continued.

Resumption of Aid Not Expected

BK2201072093 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0638 GMT 22 Jan 93

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 22 (OANA/ANTARA)—Two members of the House Commission I have said that Indonesia does not expect the United States to resume its military educational assistance to Indonesia which was discontinued following the East Timor Dili affair in 1992.

She added that Indonesia would be oppose to any political stringent for accepting such a foreign assistance.

The US Government has suspended the assistance for military education to Indonesia following the drastic steps taken by the RI [Republic of Indonesia] Armed Forces against the Dili affair in November 1991.

Theo Sambuaga, also member of House Commission I of the Karya Development Faction [Golkar], commented that though a change had taken place in the US presidency, there should be no need to beg for a resumption of the US military assistance.

In my opinion, the US policy of stopping its military assistance to Indonesia last year because of the East Timor affair was a mistake. Indonesia's step in dealing with the Dili case was in keeping with the national as well as international laws, he asserted.

Major General R.K. Sembiring of the Armed Forces Faction said that Indonesia was seriously making continuous effort to update its armed forces. Yet, we should not be too ambitious to have the US military assistance resumed, he made it clear that the policy of the RI Government is to regard overseas assistance as mere complementary.

He suggested that any eventual resumption of the US military aid should not be denied by the Indonesian Government.

Miyazawa's Visit Linked to Tokyo G-7 Summit

BK2101132993 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 14 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Knocking on doors"]

[Text] Knocking at rich men's doors carries the risk that the knock will not be answered immediately. But that is exactly what President Suharto did during the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa this week.

He informed his guest of his desire to convey the views of the Nonaligned Movement in a North-South dialogue when Tokyo hosts the Group of Seven summit in June.

Suharto did not define how the message should or would be conveyed. In the words of Minister/State Secretary Murdiono, Suharto hoped to "get the opportunity to hold a dialogue in whatever form" with the G-7 leaders.

Indonesia is eager to convey the Jakarta Message—a call for collective action and the democratization of international relations—summed up during the Movement's summit last September.

This is the second time that President Suharto has discussed such a possible dialog between the industrialized North and the developing South with Miyazawa. During his visit to Tokyo in September, Suharto discussed the possible reactivation of the dialogue with Miyazawa immediately after the Movement's summit in Jakarta.

In our view, Suharto's wish reflects the responsibility that has been placed on his shoulders in his capacity as chairman of the Movement. The issues on hand comprise a host of complex concerns. One of them is the huge disparity in the distribution of the world's wealth, with 23 percent of the global population enjoying 85 percent of total income.

Miyazawa said two things in September: One, that Japan would seriously consider the question of how to start such a North-South dialog and that it would consult President Suharto regarding his efforts; and two, that Japan would consider supporting the implementation of South-South cooperation projects.

Miyazawa kept the second promise Tuesday when he pledged to provide U.S.$2.5 million in aid to support cooperation among developing countries.

In November, Suharto also visited France to meet with President Francois Mitterrand to convey the same message. Other members of G-7 are Britain, Canada, German, Italy, and the United States.

Suharto will continue his mission next month when Helmut Kohl, chancellor of Germany, visits Jakarta.

Whether the door on which Suharto will be knocking will be opened remains to be seen. What we do know at present is that the promotion of such a North-South dialogue is one of the points addressed in the Miyazawa Doctrine the Japanese prime minister promulgated not so long ago.

Indonesia believes in cooperation rather than confrontation with the North. On the other hand, it does not see a North-South dialogue as a forum for making pleas for more aid. Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Alatas has made it quite clear that enhanced North-South cooperation would bring advantages to both developing and developed countries and therefore would be in the interest of both.

Miyazawa left Jakarta yesterday with a pledge to consult other members of the G-7 to convey the Jakarta Message.

In light of this, we would like to emphasize the fact that a growing need exists for the North to listen to the South. In this volatile world, under a new, shifting power constellation that has yet to settle following the demise of communism, regional forces are now at play, moving towards a new equilibrium.

The emergence of a strong power from the South in 10 or 20 years time cannot be ruled out. Hence, it would be wise for the North to garner the foresight to heed the needs of the South now.

How precisely the message is conveyed seems to be of secondary relevance. The important point is that it is conveyed.

Laos

Thailand's Former Premier Meets Leaders on Fund

BK1901154993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] A group of 30 Thai businessmen led by General Chatchai Chunhawan, former Thai prime minister, arrived in Vientiane on 18 January for a visit to Laos between 18 and 20 January to sound out (?views) of Lao authorities on joining as a member of the Indochina Development Fund [words indistinct] and provided by the Japanese Government.

While the Thai businessmen and investors were busy setting up contacts in Laos, Gen. Chatchai Chunhawan led his entourage to pay courtesy calls on His Excellency [H.E.] Nouhak Phoumsavan and H.E. Khamtai Siphandon, respectively president and prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]. The general also met and exchanged views with H.E. Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign economic relations, and many other high-ranking state officials. During the meeting on the afternoon of 18 January, the Lao side agreed with (?the proposal) of the former Thai prime minister on setting up the Indochina

Development Fund and is ready to send its representatives to participate in coordinating [words indistinct] and effectively utilizing the said fund.

H.E. Khamphoui Keoboualapha told our station reporter that after the Indochina Development Fund has been established, Lao companies will be able to acquire loans from foreign countries. At the same time, foreign enterprises investing in Laos will face no risk in investing here because their investments will be guaranteed by the fund. In addition, the fund will become a great contribution to Laos' economic and social development, especially in the transport and communications sector, electricity generating, and other economic fields.

In addition to paying courtesy calls on our important leaders and holding consultative talks with senior Lao cadres, the Thai businessmen and investors also visited tourist attractions in [words indistinct] in Champassak Province, Route 9 Highway in Savannakhet Province, and Route 12 Highway in Khammouane Province. It is expected that a new bridge crossing the Mekong River will be built either in Savannakhet or Khammouane Province. They also visited some ruins in Vientiane capital.

Vice Premier Agrees To Proposal

BK1901024393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] Vientiane—Laos has agreed to join the Indochinese Development Fund proposed by former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan, Laotian vice-premier Khamphoui Keoboualapha said yesterday.

The agreement was the result of talks yesterday evening between Gen Chatchai and Mr Khamphoui concurrently minister for the economy, planning and finance.

Laos will send representatives to discuss the fund with their counterparts from Cambodia, Mr Khamphoui told reporters after emerging from the 90-minute-meeting at the Lane Xang Hotel.

Mr Khamphoui however did not state when and where the meeting of Indochinese representatives would take place.

But he said Gen Chatchai indicated during yesterday's talks that there was a "possibility" that Japan would sponsor the two billion US dollar Indochinese Development Fund.

A Japanese source on Saturday said in Bangkok that Japan needed more details and more time to consider the proposal.

The talks between Gen Chatchai, now leader of the Chat Phatthana Party, and Mr Khamphoui, also covered the proposal to build a bridge linking Thailand, Laos and Vietnam.

It would be the second bridge that would connect Thailand with Laos. The first, currently under construction, is expected to be completed ahead of schedule in the first quarter of next year.

Laos asked for more time before deciding on the construction of the second bridge when the matter was discussed last week during the visit here by Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri.

Mr Khamphoui reaffirmed Laos's preference on the starting and finishing points of the Thai-Lao stretch of the bridge if Vientiane were to agree on its construction.

Laos would like the bridge to link Thailand's Nakhon Phanom Province with Thakhek in the Laotian Province of Khammouane.

Laos plans to build Route 12 from Thakhek, through Khammouane Province, to the Vietnamese port of Honla, which is being developed.

The new highway would help develop poor areas of the province, Mr Khamphoui noted.

Another proposed route for the second bridge, between Thailand's Mukdahan Province and Savannakhet in Laos, should be shelved, he added. This route is advocated by Thailand, observers noted.

Mr Khamphoui said Gen Chatchai promised to raise both questions—the new bridge and the highway—in discussions with Japan at a later date.

Gen Chatchai arrived here late yesterday morning for a three-day private visit, at the head of a delegation that includes some 20 Thai businessmen.

Lao Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office Phao Bounnaphon, on behalf of the Laotian government, met him on his arrival at Wattay Airport.

In the afternoon, Gen Chatchai paid courtesy calls on Laotian president Nouhak Phoumsavan and prime minister Khamtai Siphandon, who is also president of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

Gen Chatchai visited Vientiane in late 1988 when he was prime minister.

His programme for today includes visits to possible sites for the second bridge—in Sawannakhet Province, and at Thakhek in Khammouane Province.

Laos last week postponed a decision on the construction of the second bridge, citing its wish to improve roads as well as consider the impact of the first friendship bridge, being built with Australia's support.

Phoun Sipaseut Receives Chatchai

BK2101123393 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1400 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] This morning in Vientiane, Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, received a courtesy call from General Chatchai Chunhawan, former Thai prime minister, and a group of Thai businessmen and investors. The Lao deputy prime minister and the visiting former Thai prime minister discussed and exchanged views on investment in Laos, focusing on the development of transport routes and a hydropower generation project at the Nam Ngum Dam. The discussion also touched on Laos' desire to become a member of the Indochinese development group.

Phoun Sipaseut thanked Gen. Chatchai for his interest in socioeconomic development in Laos, his initiative in transforming the Indochinese battlefield into a marketplace, and his initiative for setting up the Indochinese Development Fund, or IDF. The fund is designed to help gradually boost fruitful investment in Laos, as well as in every country in the region. It is also aimed at enhancing socioeconomic development and prosperity in Laos, but at the same time it must be beneficial for investors in Laos, too. Moreover, it would also enhance relations and cooperation among all the countries in this region.

Gen. Chatchai and the group of businessmen were to leave Vientiane for home this afternoon after spending three days observing economic development in the country.

Rice Shortage Predicted in Sekong Province

BK1701040693 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] According a report from Sekong Province, Khambai Douangdalalai, deputy chief of the provincial agricultural service, said that the people in the province will face a shortage of rice for consumption in the next five months because the rice harvest in the past year was very poor. He said only 10,082 metric tons of paddy were harvested on 5,450 hectares of ricefields. On average, only 1,850 kg of paddy per hectare was harvested during the last production season.

Sekong Province has a population of 59,941 people. They need about 20,290 metric tons of paddy for consumption. This means that they are still short of 10,908 metric tons of paddy for adequate consumption. The agricultural official noted that because of severe drought and crop pests, rice plants on some 973 hectares of ricefields were severely damaged.

Drought Causes Luang Namtha Rice Shortage

BK1801074493 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 6 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Seng-gnong Vongchankham, deputy governor of Luang Namtha Province, told a KPL [Khaosan Pathet Lao] correspondent on 4 January that rice production in the province during the last year was seriously affected by a severe drought. The natural disaster damaged 1,500 hectares of the seasonal rice growing areas, which was equivalent to 30.52 percent of the total 4,915 hectares of rice fields in the province.

The provincial authority elaborated that the rice harvest in the last season yielded a total of only 3,482 metric tons of paddy—69.65 percent less than the estimated target. The combined total of lowland and upland rice crops in the province was only 9,820 tons, while the demand of rice consumption was estimated at 40,300 tons. The aforementioned total paddy output has thus caused a big repercussion for the people in the province for they will face an approximately nine-month rice shortage.

Measures To Solve Rice Shortage Stepped Up

BK2001034893 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] The upland and seasonal rice farming in the past year was adversely affected by drought both in the early and late parts of the production season, thus resulting in low paddy production. Under this circumstance, several localities throughout the country will face a shortage of rice for consumption from five to nine months.

On top of the list is Luang Namtha Province, which has been predicted to suffer a rice shortage for about nine months, followed by the provinces of Oudomsai, Xieng Khouang, Houa Phan, and Sekong; Paklai District, Sayaboury Province; and some areas in other provinces, which will face a rice shortage for about five months.

In order to prevent famine, local administrations, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and agriculture and forestry services in each province have been implementing every possible measure to facilitate and mobilize the people in each locality to plant substitute crops, do dry season rice farming, and grow vegetable and various crops for sale.

At the same time, the agriculture ministry is speedily collecting statistics of the number of people who will suffer a rice shortage and the quantity of rice required as relief for hunger before requesting assistance from friendly countries and international organizations and finding suitable ways and means to further solve the problem.

Philippines

Officials Voice Opinions on Clinton Presidency

HK2101142093 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Remarks by unidentified government officials on inauguration of President Bill Clinton; place and date not given; first two paragraphs are announcer's introduction; from the "ABC-DWET News Program"; officials speak in English unless otherwise indicated—recorded]

[Text] The new President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton, took his oath of office yesterday. The start of a new administration in any country means new programs and new priorities. With the start of the Clinton administration, the shape of relations between the Philippines and the United States is expected to change.

What will be the effects of the Clinton presidency on our country in various fields? We asked officials of our government and here are their opinions:

[First official] We have kept very close touch with the Filipinos who had been actively working with President Clinton during this campaign and I suppose this will help very, very strongly in setting a good relationship with the United States.

[Second official] I think we'll have an improvement in Philippine-American relations under the Clinton administration. Traditionally, I think, the Democrats are friendlier to the Philippines.

[Third official in Tagalog] I think there will not be a significant change, if there is going to be a change under the administration of President Clinton, because the existing Mutual Defense Treaty between the Philippines and the United States will not be changed with the change of the President.

[Fourth official] With the removal of the U.S. military bases from our country, I think that will help very much to bring about a relationship between the two countries that is more equitable, fair and mutually beneficial.

[Fifth official] We'll have to paddle our own canoe, we've got to steer our own boat to safety all by ourselves. That means we have to be more self-reliant and have more or less equal and balanced international relations.

[Sixth official] American interests would always prevail, and since we have kicked them out of the Philippines, from their bases, the Philippines has been relegated to the backburner of U.S. foreign military considerations.

Columnist Views Clinton's Inaugural Address

HK2201050493 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 22 Jan 93 pp 1, 7

["Analysis" column by Amando Doronila: "After the euphoria, the realities"]

[Text] East-West Center, Honolulu—President Bill Clinton took office yesterday in an atmosphere of high expectations for change not seen since the inauguration in 1960 of his role model, John Kennedy. Although he won the election with only a plurality (43

of the popular vote), Mr. Clinton's mandate from the American people has appreciated tremendously since last November. His mandate is the smallest since the 1912 election, which Woodrow Wilson (also a Democrat) won with 41.2 of the popular vote in a three-cornered fight with Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft. President Kennedy (Democrat) took office with about 49

of the vote. Mr. Clinton did win a clear—though not a landslide—majority in the electoral college. Nonetheless, the narrow popular mandate did not prevent Presidents Wilson and Kennedy from tapping the reservoir of the American presidency for visionary and creative leadership and national renewal.

On the eve of his inauguration, public-opinion polls showed that Mr. Clinton's mandate had broadened; and now he has a 75

popularity rating. Seven of 10 Americans, in a burst of confidence in the new Administration, say they are optimistic "about the next four years." Newly elected presidents, including ours, enjoy such euphoria. A similar phenomenon happened to President Ramos between last May election and his inauguration, which might be called a prelude to the 100 days honeymoon period.

The thing is whether new presidents can transform this euphoric period into a launching pad for action to get things done. While leading the pilgrimage from Thomas Jefferson's estate at Montecillo to his inauguration, Mr. Clinton said: "I want to be faithful to the Jeffersonian idea that once in a generation you have to shake things up and face your problems."

This is what he is trying to do as America enters a new era of generational shift through which the American people have given themselves the gift of ending the reign of a generation of leaders schooled in World War II and the Cold War values and experience. The sight in Washington of the so-called "Baby Boomers" taking command as the Old Guard fades into history is both refreshing and full of youth. The spirit of youth and adventure, unconstrained by the balance of power of the Cold War now dissolved, reflects an era of change which can no longer be managed by the Cold Warriors represented by the generation of Ronald Reagan and George Bush, old men who presided over the dissolution of the bipolar world dominated by the U.S. and the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Clinton faces the daunting problems of reviving the U.S. economy, reducing the huge budgetary and investment deficits, and "reinventing" government, meaning, making it an activist agent in the redistribution of welfare, incomes, creating jobs, and helping some industries become more internationally competitive. And this catch-word recalls the heady days of the interventionist New Deal presidency of Franklin Roosevelt. It is a historic pattern of American politics that generational shakeups take place under a Democratic leadership which is mroe experimental and audacious in initiating domestic social and economic reform schemes.

Clinton did the right things on inauguration day. He tried to write a trenchant, succinct and lifting inaugural speech, and one of his models was Abraham Lincoln's

Second Inaugural address, a brief inspirational lamentation over the Civil War. Clinton's is a 14-minute speech which contains inspirational gems. For example, he called out, "My fellow Americans, you too, much play your part in our renewal." He challenge young Americans to "a season of service" to help troubled children and others in need and reconnect "our torn communities." He declared, "We will not shrink from the challenges nor fail to seize the opportunities," and the passage "There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America" can match Kennedy's "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you do for your country."

In writing his speech, Clinton heeded advice that the briefest inauguration speeches were the most inspiring and those delivered by great Presidents. Long and rambling inauguration speeches are the hallmarks of mediocre President.

The inaugural speech moved the agenda to what the new President considers his central strategy, the revival of the economy. He refocused the agenda after this central concern was being crowded out by the grabbing foreign policy issues of Iraq, Somalia and Bosnia, issues that command immediate attention of his newly composed foreign policy team, headed by Secretary of State Christopher Warren. Mr. Clinton has been struggling to keep unclouded his priority of restoring American economic might as the bombing of Iraq by U.S.-led coalition forces ordered by ex-President Bush kept on competing for priority attention.

Mr. Clinton spoke only in general terms about the upheavals in the post-World War era and barely mentioned the foreign crisis he inherited from the Bush Administration—the crisis with Iraq. Instead he focused on change and domestic reforms and called on Congress and the nation to help him revitalize the economy.

The revitalization of the economy is his central theme and constitutes the corerstone of the new U.S. foreign policy directions he outlined to diplomats at Georgetown University. He said: "The foreign poilcy of my Administration will be build upon three pillars:

"First, we will make the economic security of our own nation a primary goal of our foreign policy. Here in America we cannot sustain an active engagement abroad without a sound economy at home. And yet we cannot prosper at home unless we are engaged abroad. We will, therefore, seek economic strength at home through increased productivity, even as we seek to ensure that global commerce is rooted in principles of openness, fairness and reciprocity.

"Second, our foreign policy will be based on a restructuring of our armed forces to meet new and continuing threats to our security interests and the international peace. We will continue to prudently reduce defense spending. But potential aggressors should be clear about American resolve. We do not relish the prospect of military force but, when necessary, we will not shrink from using it wen all propriate diplomatic measures have been exhausted.

"Third, my Administrations' foreign policy will be rooted in the democratic principles and institutions which unite our own country and to which so many now around the world aspire. The spread of democratic values has given the hope of freedom to millions all across the world, who have endured decades of oppression. Whenever possible we will interests of America and the world at large for us to do so."

With these goals and vision set, the next thing to watch is whether the Clinton Administration is going to "hit the ground running." It is exhibiting energy, dynasmism and vigor, but as some critics of the new administration are already point out, he has very little time to refire the economy, cut the deficit and make the nation move again. Can the nation afford to pay to President Ramos as he tackles the energy crisis, the legislative-executive gridlock and the task to revive the economy.

Malaysian Scholar: No Secret Sabah Deals

HK1801104293 Quezon City MALAYA in English 17 Jan 93 p 3

[Report by Ellen Tordesillas]

[Text] There is no secret deal behind the official invitation of the King of Malaysia to President Ramos to visit Kuala Lumpur late this month, a Malaysian scholar said yesterday.

Noordin Soopie, director-general of the Institute of International and Strategic Studies, who was here as participant to the Asia-Pacific Forum, said the invitation of King Yan di Pertuan Agong "was without any condition."

The invitation came about because "obviously there has been a breakthrough in our thinking. There has been a change in our attitude and in our position," Noordin explained.

The invitation for the state visit was the first to be given a Philippine President since the establishment of relations between the Philippines and Malaysia in 1964, Noordin added.

The Malaysian government used to have an unwritten policy not to encourage high level visits of Philippine government officials until the latter drops its claim over Sabah, the largest state in the Federation of Malaysia.

Noordin said Malaysians now understand the reality of the Philippine system which has prevented the executive department from dropping the country's claim over Sabah.

"President Ramos' visit is a breakthrough and it's a very much to be welcomed," Noordin said.

However, Noordin declined to talk about the technical aspects of the bilateral relations like whether the joint border patrol agreement would be signed despite the non-dropping of the Sabah claim.

President Ramos on Monday said there will be no agreements to be signed in the government level but there will be some joint venture agreements to be inked between businessmen who will be accompanying him and some Malaysian firms.

Manglapus To Discuss Sabah During Ramos Trip

HK1801102993 Quezon City MALAYA in English 18 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Ellen Tordesillas]

[Text] Former Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus will hold talks with Malaysian officials on the Sabah issue during next week's visit of President Ramos to Malaysia, a Malacanang official said yesterday.

Manglapus, a member of the presidential party as president of Petron, will meet Malaysian officials in his role as emissary for some 30 heirs of the Sultan of Sulu who are seeking additional compensation from the Malaysian government.

Manglapus was named spokesman by the heirs in 1988 when he was still secretary of foreign affairs. Only Jamalul Kiram, one of those who claim to be the rightful heir of the sultan, does not recognize Manglapus as his represenative.

"The Sabah issue will be discussed but there is an agreement that there will be no signing of an agreement on the issue," the Palace official said.

Presidential spokesperson Annabelle Abaya said Friday [15 January] a discussion on Sabah "is not really part of the agenda of the Malaysian state visit."

"However, I think this issue cannot be ignored but this is something that will be taken up as a matter of confidence building between the two countries," she said.

Abaya said the joint executive-legislative council on Sabah will meet on Tuesday to formulate a common stand on the issue before the President leaves for Malaysia.

The Sultan of Sulu was given the island of Sabah by the Sultan of Brunei in the 18th century for helping the latter quell an insurection.

The Sultan of Sulu then leased the oil-rich island to the North Borneo Co., a British firm. Sabah was included in the Federation of Malaysia in 1963 despite the claim of the Philippine government on the territory as successor in interest to the Sulu sultanate.

Ramos: Sabah Not on Malaysian Visit Agenda

HK1901094593 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos will not negotiate regarding the Sabah issue during his trip to Malaysia on 27 January. Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo, chairman of the Executive-Legislative Council on the Sabah issue, said this was an agreement made during a meeting between Ramos and his delegation.

On the other hand, Romulo said, the president will do his best to discuss new approaches to resolve the Sabah issues with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamed. Romulo refused to comment on what these approaches are. Ramos and his group have agreed to have a single stand on the issue.

[Begin Romulo recording in English] During the first meeting of the advisory council there was an assurance that the government will be speaking with one voice regarding the issue. The president informed the advisory council that he will not negotiate the Sabah issue during his visit but would explore with Prime Minister Mahathir new approaches towards resolving the Sabah issue. [end recording]

Ramos March Visit to Japan 'Eagerly Awaited'

HK1501140793 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in English 1300 GMT 15 Jan 93

[From "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] The visit by President Fidel V. Ramos to Japan is eagerly awaited by Tokyo, says Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. Miyazawa said this in a message delivered to Malacanang [the presidential palace] by Mr. Nobuo Matsunaga, former Japanese envoy to Washington DC. President Ramos is scheduled to visit Tokyo some time in March this year. Mr. Matsunaga said the Ramos visit will be good preparation for the summit of the seven most industrialized nations in July.

Ramos Urges Leftist Leaders To Speed Decisions

HK1701083593 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos has urged Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] leaders to hasten their decisions regarding the government's peace talks offer. The president explained that the CPP-New People's Army's delay in its decision regarding the peace process will waste many chances and opportunities towards national development and progress. Ramos made the statement in response to the fact that CPP founding chairman Jose Maria Sison, who is presently in the Netherlands, has made no clear response yet regarding the government's peace talks offer.

Meanwhile, Ramos stressed that the country must achieve lasting peace as soon as possible in order for livelihood to progress. In a speech he made in his visit to Batangas City today, Ramos stressed that unless peace and stability are realized, no investments will enter the country and tourism will not flourish. Ramos added his administration giving the peace issue priority and has been convincing various rebel groups to go back to the fold of the law before he launches a comprehensive program for progress.

[Begin Ramos recording] I hope we understand that what is most important is a peaceful and lasting position of peace and order, security and stability. If such an environment is absent in our society, our nation, no investments will come in, tourism will not flourish, and we will not be able to improve since our industries will not move well. [end recording]

Ramos expressed confidence that when the Congress reconvenes on Monday, 18 January, it will approve proclamations 10 and 10A which will grant amnesty to rightist and leftist rebels.

Orders Intensified Drive Against NPA

HK1801080993 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 18 Jan 93 p 18

[Report by Aris Ilagan]

[Text] Roxas City—President Ramos has ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to intensify its military offensives against the remaining forces of the New People's Army (NPA) nationwide because the fate of the government initiated peace negotiations with communist rebels still remains uncertain. This was disclosed yesterday by Gen. Lisandro Abadia, AFP chief of staff, who said that the directive was relayed to him, Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, and six newly-promoted major area commanders in Malacanang late Saturday [16 January] night.

Abadia said that the President also ordered the AFP leadership to speed up information drive for military men in the field regarding the government's peace initiatives with various rebel groups "to avoid confusion that may complicate the ongoing peace process."

In line with the President's directive, the AFP chief of staff ordered field commanders to facilitate the deployment of more Army special forces to track down NPA mobile forces in remaining rebel strongholds. Abadia said that although the NPA strength is fast declining, the mobile forces of the communist rebel army should not be allowed to establish camps in remote areas since they are still capable of sabotage operations against government targets.

He blamed the NPA mobile unit on terrorist attacks against several detachments of police and militiamen and a few municipal halls during the past months. "We must not let our guard down and allow these mobile forces to roam around," Abadia told the officers and men of the 3rd Infantry Division based in Jamindan, Capiz.

Abadia added that special operating teams of the Philippine Army should be consistently retrained and refurbished for the main purpose of tracking down NPA guerrilla units.

NUC Names Communist Representative for Talks

HK1801051293 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] National Unification Commission Chairperson [NUC] Haydee Yorac has announced through an exclusive interview with DWIZ that former priest Luis Jalandoni, not Jose Maria Sison, founding chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP], will represent the CPP in the forthcoming peace talks with the government. Yorac made the announcement in view of Sison's stubbornness about holding the peace talks abroad.

Meanwhile, Yorac clarified that the government's present negotiations with communist rebels in the country was just consultative, adding that the government wishes to determine through the NUC what the rebels wish to discuss in the forthcoming formal peace talks. Yorac observed that most of the rebels have expressed the desire to push through with the peace process.

In related reports, NUC representatives have been continuously negotiating with the Islamic Conference Organization to convince Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] leader Nur Misuari to return to the Philippines for peace talks. Yorac has also urged the Moro Islamic Liberation Front [MILF] to join the negotiations. Yorac added that the NUC will soon announce where and when the exploratory talks between the government, the MNLF, and the MILF will take place.

Lawmaker Claims NUC, Communists Rift

HK1901035093 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Congressman Jose Yap has admitted to an impending rift between National Unification Commission [NUC] Chairperson Haydee Yorac and National Democratic Front [NDF] leaders Jose Maria Sison and Luis Jalandoni regarding delays to the peace process between the government and leftist rebels.

Yap, an NUC member, said Yorac is beginning to dislike criticisms made by NDF leaders in their claims that the unification body is not loyal to its aims, which has caused the leftist movement not to recognize the commission. The issue on the other hand has led the NUC to believe that Sison and Jalandoni are merely exploiting the peace process in order to spread their own propaganda.

Yap has urged the NUC to give a decision on Thursday whether or not it will allow a second exploratory meeting with the NDF leaders in an Asian country in order to fix the agenda and start the functions of working committees.

NUC Sees Progress in Talks With RAM

HK2101142193 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 21 Jan 93

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] A meeting will be held tomorrow between the government and the panel of the Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance [RAM], but it will not be part of the formal peace negotiations. Malacanang has not yet released the formal list of the government panel that will meet with the RAM panel.

But while the start of the formal negotiations continues to be postponed, the National Unification Commission [NUC] still considers the peace talks with RAM as one with the fastest progress.

[Begin NUC Chairman Haydee Yorac recording in English] Well, yes, this is the same opinion that was expressed by some people from RAM before. [end recording]

The NUC does not consider the internal clash of opinions in the National Democratic Front [NDF] and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army [CPP-NPA] as an obstacle to the consultation process.

[Begin Yorac recording in English] No, I don't want to go into details now because that will, I think, give you a cue as to how we are approaching the split within the party. [end recording]

Nevertheless, the NUC continues to recognize Luis Jalandoni as the official representative of the CPP-NPA-NDF.

On the part of the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front [MILF], consultations are continuing to reach agreement to hold formal peace negotiations.

But NUC said the reported plan of MILF to participate in the coming elections of the autonomous region of Muslim Mindanao may slow down the peace process between MILF and MNLF.

Today, NUC officials explained in detail to media representatives its role in the peace process.

[Begin Yorac recording in English] The negotiations themselves might go beyond several months. It might even span a period of one year or more. And so there's really no conflict between the National Unification Commission and the negotiating panels. [end recording]

Thailand

Paper Comments on Clinton Inaugural Address

BK2201040993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Jan 93 p A6

[Editorial: "An inaugural address that echoed of John F. Kennedy"]

[Text] It was the quickest of ceremonies and yet it was one of America's most memorable moments. With Americans and the world looking on (thanks to satellite television), and standing with his right hand raised and his left hand on the King James version of the Bible given to him by his grandmother when he was a child, Bill Clinton uttered these words: "I, William Jefferson Clinton, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of the President of the United States and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, so help me God."

As a candidate for the presidency last year, Clinton was known for his long speeches, but his first action as president was to deliver one of the shortest inaugural addresses in the country's history: exactly 14 minutes in length.

Uplift and inspire

Clinton's style and delivery was reminiscent of previous inaugural addresses aimed to uplift and inspire Americans. The 42nd US president's address also had echos of John F. Kennedy in 1961.

As Kennedy said at that time, after he was sworn in, "the torch is passed to a new generation". Now America is a generation from Kennedy and the torch is being passed, with Clinton receiving it for the people.

Kennedy challenged Americans with the powerful words, "Ask not what your country can do for you—but what you can do for your country." President Clinton on the other hand rephrased the challenge with "...this is our time and let's embrace it..." The last Democrat president, Jimmy Carter, said a few days ago that Clinton was inheriting more problems than any president in recent memory. That may be true.

Certainly candidate Clinton made a lot of promises, among them to give temporary asylum to political refugees from Haiti, to review China's Most Favoured Nation status to force Beijing to respect human rights, to trim the US$300 billion deficit in four years, to save US$100 billion in defence spending over the next five years, to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military and increase funding for Aids research

But President Clinton might have a much harder time keeping his promises than candidate Clinton had in making them. Already he has moved away from granting Haitians temporary asylum in the United States, he appears to be shifting his position on China, he's backing down on his pledge to halve the budget deficit and he seems reluctant to make good on his promise to allow homosexuals into the military.

In his inaugural address, Clinton said: "We must invest more in our own people and in our own future ... and at the same time cut our massive debt." To do both will require a massive reordering of the Clinton administration's and America's economic priorities. Federal spending on public infrastructure will have to be boosted, perhaps by US$20 billion per year. Companies will have to be encouraged to invest more in their plants, equipment and worker training. But at the same time taxes will have to be raised and government spending on a host of politically popular programmes—from veterans' benefits to health care for the poor and elderly—will need to be cut.

The American health care system is in desperate need of an overhaul. Candidate Clinton promised to do that. It's a core issue and that which would affect millions of voters if President Clinton fails to deliver.

On his first day in office, Clinton is about to break another of his campaign promises to Americans—to have an economic programme ready on Day One of his administration. Aides now say it will be weeks before he has a plan in place.

For many of us in Asia, Clinton's assertion in his inaugural address that "there will be no clear division between what is foreign and what is domestic" is cause for slight alarm. Candidate Clinton campaigned on a platform that the United States' foreign policy will have no clout if the American economy is weak. Clearly, international trade has got domestic repercussions and the perspective of the new president is that things are not national anymore, that everything is global, from business and foreign policy to what Americans do at home.

Pry open markets

At any rate, when Clinton is dealing with jobs and the deficit, he has to consider interest rates and recessions abroad, protective foreign markets and high tariffs preventing the entry of US goods into other countries. For one, Asian countries can expect a more aggressive US policy in trying to pry open their protective markets, and it remains to be seen whether punitive measures would be taken under section 301 of the US Trade Law.

Despite having wanted to focus on domestic issues "like a laser beam", Clinton's first real test will come sooner than anticipated and it will be from overseas, whether he is dealing with Saddam Husayn in Iraq or America's European allies in the crisis with Bosnia.

The Iraqi government has constantly accused Clinton's predecessor George Bush of waging a personal vendetta against Saddam. The Iraqis now want to test the waters with Clinton and there is a chance that it won't be as icy as it was before.

Clinton on Wednesday promised to renew and reinvigorate America. Clearly, Americans have "heard the trumpets and changed the old guard" and now the governor from Little Rock, Arkansas, who has "answered the call" must not let the United States and the world down. We wish him all the best in office.

Paper Discusses Problems Awaiting Clinton

BK2001032793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Jan 93 p A8

[Editorial: "No Rosy Road Ahead for New US President"]

[Text] Bill Clinton officially changes his status today from president-elect to US president after the swearing-in ceremony at the White House. Clinton's predecessor George Bush in the two months before vacating office, has bequeathed the president-elect with unfinished business in Somalia and Iraq and left him a legacy in Taiwan, Vietnam and China.

Even before Clinton has put a big enough team to handle them, foreign policy issues cry out for action. The new White House occupant now has this urgent task of convincing the world that despite having limited experience in foreign policy, he will not neglect foreign affairs as Bush did with domestic issues.

The dispatching of US Marines by Bush to the semi-desert country of Somalia to help relief agencies in providing food to thousands of hungry Somalians, was a noble humanitarian act. Before the Marines landed, marauding Somalian warlords prevented the international agencies from carrying out relief work, and robbed convoys carrying food and medical supplies.

Clinton now has to make a decision on the African nation. When he was president-elect, Clinton firmly supported Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, but did not make clear his plan for extracting American troops. Undoubtedly, his hope is that the United Nations can take over the relief operation as soon as possible, but Somalians and the relief agencies feel that a quick US exit is not that easy.

Bush has sought to force Saddam Husayn to comply with UN resolutions and to remove him from power, and yet the Iraqi president remains adamant even in the face of US bombings on Iraq. Frankly speaking, taking on Saddam Husayn is the most straightforward kind of desert warfare with an immediate neighbour providing the best of airfields to launch high-tech bombardment on another.

Only Clinton can break away from Bush's policy and it remains to be seen whether the new president will allow blind hatred for Saddam to overwhelm all rationality at the expense of the lives of innocent Iraqi civilians.

Clinton has suggested in an interview last week that he could accept Saddam as Iraqi leader if he changed his behaviour, and there is optimism that the wily Iraqi might drop his hard-line tactics soon, forcing the new US president to deal with a "reasonable" adversary.

Though Bush's forays in the Middle East during his last days in office is questionable, in the final months, the former president has performed acts of assistance to Clinton and US foreign policy in Taiwan, Vietnam and China.

On the instructions of Bush, US Trade Representative Carla Hills was dispatched to Taiwan, ending a 13-year ban on Cabinet-level contacts. Because of this self-imposed ban, the US often found itself in a disadvantaged position in dealing with that country.

The final chapter on resolving the American MIAs in Vietnam is coming to an end, and Bush has permitted a wide range of US commercial activity with the Hanoi government. This will facilitate the normalization of US-Vietnam ties, and has laid the groundwork for Clinton to follow up.

After a four-year hiatus, Bush removed one of the few remaining sanctions imposed on China after the 1989 Tiananmen massacre. The US-China commission on bilateral business issues has been reconvened with the rationale that one of the most effective ways of promoting human rights was by promoting economic development and commercial ties.

Of the three final initiatives by Bush, Clinton could be of two minds with regard to China, because of his campaign pledge of a more assertive human-rights approach linked to trade. How tough Clinton will be on China remains to be seen.

The new president's agenda for the US has been clearly put forward by Secretary of State designate Warren Christopher who reiterated: "... the strength of our economy is the foundation of our foreign policy, that our (military) force structure needs to be revamped and that democracy must be promoted on a worldwide basis."

In his Cabinet choice, Clinton has ensured that only he will have the final power to decide on disputes which will inevitably arise. Clinton's choice for defence secretary Les Aspin and the new president's nominee for director of the CIA, James Woolsey, are likely to press for the use of more military force where they deem appropriate. In contrast, Secretary of State Christopher and Anthony Lake, as national security advisers—both veterans of the Carter administration—are staunch advocates for the restrained use of force.

When Clinton left Little Rock, Arkansas for Washington yesterday in a bid to identify himself with America's downtrodden, he said: "God did not drop me from a mountaintop. I was born in the valley and lifted to this office on the hopes and dreams of the people in the valleys all across this country." The ordinary American says he wants action from his president, to take him out of his doldrums and using this ticket, Clinton swept into power. Clearly, Bill Clinton's political success is his economic package, which is now well behind schedule because of pressing foreign policy problems.

The new president's real test will come if he is tempted to use force to right the wrongs in Bosnia by taking on a guerrilla army intermingled with a civilian population in inhospitable terrain.

Reportage on Visit by Australian Ministers

Australia 'Cautiously Optimistic' on GATT

BK2001164493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1239 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 20 (AFP)—Australia is cautiously optimistic that the United States and Europe will be able to iron out their differences over the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) before March, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said here Wednesday.

Evans, speaking to the Thai-Australian Chamber of Commerce here, said after talks he had held last week in Europe he hoped the "mortal conflict" between the two over agricultural exports could be settled.

If it is not settled before March 2, when the old agreements run out and the new ones come up for debate by the U.S. Congress, the process could drag on, he said, adding that much depended on how quickly the new U.S. Government of Bill Clinton "grabbed the nettle."

Supports 'More Active' ASEAN Role

BK2101041193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Jan 93 p A2

[Text] Australia has expressed support for a more active role for Asean in bringing peace and stability to the Asia-Pacific region, and for its constructive engagement policy with Burma.

Informed sources said Canberra officials had also expressed hopes during talks here yesterday for a peaceful settlement of regional conflicts in the Pacific and the South China Sea, where four Asean nations have overlapping territorial claims.

Australia's Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Richard Smith, said inaugural security talks at the 15th Asean-Australian Forum marked the maturing of Asean.

Previous dialogue on security issues between Asean and non-member nations had been on a limited, informal basis.

"It was very good... Asean has reached maturity in terms of political analysis and regional security dialogue," he said.

The Fourth Asean Summit in Singapore last year agreed to begin formal security talks with seven non-member nations. Australia is the first. Discussions yesterday involved an exchange of information on situation in Southeast Asia, particularly Cambodia and Burma, and in the South Pacific.

Asean officials briefed the Australian delegation on the situation in Southeast Asia, as well as on the problems in the South China Sea. Smith said Asean and Australia had a shared interest in the political process in Burma.

"We (Australia) made the situation in Burma and the plight of Burmese people clear," said Smith.

Australian Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Gareth Evans will meet Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri today for talks on Cambodia and the proposed presidential election there.

Smith said Australia would like to see the full implementation of the Paris peace accords, including the holding of general election by May at the latest and the completion of the UN task according to schedule in August.

Foreign Minister on Investment in Asia

BK2101034193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Jan 93 p 19

[Text] Australian businesses should invest more in Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries so that Australian exports to the region can rise further, Canberra's Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Gareth Evans said yesterday.

"Direct investment into Southeast Asia from Northeast Asia—from Japan in the first instance and more recently from the newly industrialising economies of Taiwan, Korea and Hong Kong—has been the major factor in sectors which have achieved the most spectacular export success," Mr Evans told a lunch meeting of the Australian-Thai Chamber of Commerce.

By investing in the region, Australian companies would similarly stimulate exports of Australian capital goods and services, he said.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade surveyed Australian businesses which have invested in Southeast Asia and found that out of the 126 which responded to questionnaires, only 11 percent had relocated existing activities. The remainder created new activities and new jobs as a result of their investment, he said.

"Over 90 percent in fact imported goods or services from Australia to supply their offshore investment," he said. "The potential trade benefits for foreign investment, and the current low levels of Australia's investment in Southeast Asia relative to the trade relationship, suggest that this is an area where we may have been missing out. In the second half of the 1980s when the major players were escalating investment in this growth region, Australia was directing its attention elsewhere."

Most of Mr Evans' speech was devoted to a theme which he has repeated on several recent visits to Bangkok—the growing trade ties between Australia and Southeast Asia and the assertion that "Australia's future is inextricably linked to that of Asia."

He described the Australian and regional economies as complementary. "Australia's export potential to the region reaches well beyond the farm and the quarry—although this is a perception which we will need to promote still further in potential regional markets. Rising incomes will lead to increases in demand for a range of processed food, better housing and more sophisticated consumer products and services, including telecommunications, tourism, sport and leisure, health and retailing."

Australia also has good prospects of exporting services to the region, he said.

Although Australia's market share is still less than 3 percent of the total ASEAN import market, the country's trade with the region has been growing rapidly from 8 percent of Australian exports in 1980 to 12 percent in 1991—faster than with any other region.

Australia exported A$6.6 billion (117 billion baht) to Southeast Asia in 1991, more than to any other part of the world. It increased its market share in Indonesia in the 1980s, maintained its share in the Philippines and Singapore, and lost a small amount in Malaysia. In Thailand, it saw a decline in the first part of the decade followed by a rise.

Among the achievements he cited was Cryofab Industries' successful bid to supply five giant cryogenic (very low temperature) tanks to Thailand, a sale worth A$2.5 million (44 million baht) won against US and Japanese competition.

Mr Evans also described Australia as the largest foreign investor in Vietnam following a recent agreement on oil exploration. "The competition that Australian business will face in Southeast Asia will be substantial," he said.

Prasong, Evans Meet on Cambodia

BK2101124993 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Text] Australia's Gareth Evans, minister of foreign affairs and trade, called on Thailand's Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri at the Foreign Ministry today. The Australian minister is on a visit to Thailand before making a trip to Cambodia.

Reporting on the meeting, Sakthip Krairoek, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department, said the Australian minister asked questions about Cambodia and also took the opportunity to become acquainted with the Thai foreign minister. On the question of Cambodia, Australia supports the joint statement of the ASEAN foreign ministers which called for a presidential election prior to a general election in Cambodia. Australia considers the announcement of the joint statement well-timed in solving the deadlock of the Cambodian peace settlement, and fully supports it.

Squadron Leader Prasong also reported to Gareth Evans about his efforts to find a solution to the Cambodian problem. Prasong cited his visit to China where he met Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council, or SNC, and his discussions with Chinese leaders on the problem. Prasong had also met the Indonesian foreign minister and Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Phnom Penh regime. He reported to Evans the attitude of those he met—all supported a presidential election in Cambodia.

Agricultural Bank Defends Soft Loans Program

BK1601031193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Jan 93 p 13

[Text] The Government's agricultural bank yesterday defended the programme of soft loans for farmers and predicted that by the end of March the target of lending on about two million tons of paddy will be reached.

The statements came from Suwan Traiphon, president of the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives [BAAC]. He challenged critics' claims that the Government started its programme for supporting farmers' incomes too late, and that too few farmers were taking up the loans.

Also defending the credit programme yesterday, Government spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwa expressed confidence in the bank's ability to meet its targets. He predicted that the present uproar over rice prices would eventually die down as people came to understand the Government's policies.

And Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan's eight-member committee handling Government rice deals announced the purchase of another 100,000 tons of broken rice in the latest effort to boost rice prices that so far have shown no sign of upwards movement.

But as MPs discussed whether to hold a special parliamentary debate on the rice market, one exporter suggested that the best way to raise paddy prices is to require consumers in Bangkok to pay more for their rice.

The exporter, Senator Konphot Atsawinwichit, who is a director of Sengthong Rice, said the Government's present policies were too superficial. He said the Government's announcement that it was selling rice abroad at subsidised prices would discourage importers from buying from private companies.

BAAC president Suwan said this year's paddy pledging programme began earlier than in other years—on November 16 instead of the previous start in December. The terms are also easier, with credit extended on 90 percent of the target price of each grade of paddy, and the target prices themselves are high, he said.

Mr Suwan said the present level of lending is low because the harvest season is still underway, because of the poor quality of the grain and because of disease, particularly in the North which has suffered from a fungal infection known as blast. (Blast produces unfilled kernels.)

Independent analysts agree that the disease, drought during the grain filling months of August and September, and rain in December have reduced both the size of the harvest in some areas and the yield of milled rice produced from the unmilled paddy. The quality of the paddy produced is said to be poor and the moisture content high, making some of the harvest unsuitable for storage—a key requirement for the paddy-pledging loans.

Many analysts attribute the low price of paddy to this year's low quality. Each grade of paddy is fetching prices not much lower than a year ago, but there is a larger proportion of poor quality paddy.

Mr Suwan said the bank has mobilised more staff and recruited students as assistants to speed up lending formalities, he said.

He predicted that by the end of January, 800,000 tons of paddy would have been lent, and that by the end of March the target of two million tons would virtually have been reached.

The bank's latest figures show that by Thursday 205,000 tons had been pledged, 197,791 tons by individuals and 6,830 tons by farmers' institutions such as cooperatives. Total lending on this was 595.02 million baht, with 245,000 baht already repaid. Altogether 28,201 farmers and 19 farmers' institutions had taken out loans.

This is more than double the amounts a week ago when about 10,000 farmers had borrowed 179.6 million baht, pledging 63,400 tons.

Meanwhile, the Government announced yesterday it would buy another 100,000 tons of broken rice starting next week as part of its efforts to raise paddy prices.

Announcing the purchase, Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan, who chairs the eight-member committee overseeing the Government's rice trading, said the latest 100,000 tons would be bought from millers and exporters. The price would "lead the market slightly", Dr Amnuai said.

He did not disclose the price but said it would not be less than the previous purchase price of 4,040 baht.

Dr Amnuai described the latest purchase, which would be made in installments over a period of time, as the fourth this season. He said it was being made because paddy prices are not rising.

He also predicted that the Government would have little difficulty selling the broken rice even though demand for this type of grain is limited. He said the broken grains could be blended with whole grains to make 5 percent, 10 percent and 15 percent rice that can be exported.

Dr Amnuai said the Government has worked hard to export rice and had held talks with many countries, such as Malaysia, Iran and Yemen.

Moreover, private exporters have received orders to buy about one million tons so far, he said. He predicted that the volume of orders would gradually increase allowing Thailand to export 4.5 million tons this year.

Despite his comment about the price not rising, exporting sources say there has been a slight strengthening for broken rice in the Thai market of about 8 baht per 100-kg sack to about 393-385 baht (3,930-3,850 baht per ton).

Exporters attribute the rise to competition to supply a ship bound for Senegal with a 30,000-ton order.

Also speaking after the meeting of the rice committee, Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon added that the committee has not decided yet what kind of bonus to offer to exporters who sell to new markets. The issue is not urgent, he said, because no new markets have been found yet.

Nevertheless, the government is bound to make some awards to such pioneering exporters because the search for new markets is a key part of Government policy.

The Government has also decided to extend for another year the relaxation of definitions of rice grades, according to a source in the Foreign Trade Department. The strict application of criteria for defining rice grades originally due to be restored at the end of this month, but because the quality of this year's harvest remains bad, the easier conditions are to be extended to the end of January next year in order to help Thai rice stay competitive.

Spokesman Aphisit said he did not think a special Parliamentary debate on the issue would be needed.

Chuan Discusses Rice Prices, Strategy

BK1801021093 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said yesterday the government has recently approved a 7,000 million baht provincial development budget to be used, among other things, to provide water for drinking and irrigation and to build more rice barns to store paddy.

"In addition to spending the provincial development budget on water resources, occupations, and environment, this budget would also be used for providing rice barns for farmers," Mr Chuan told provincial officials during a rice price inspection trip to Ayutthaya.

The paddy price seemed to have become a political issue. "But I think the price decrease in agricultural products has nothing to do with the government stability," said the premier.

It is the government's responsibility to solve the problem concerning the falling prices of agricultural products.

Other countries are also facing the same problem, and not only the rice problem which must depend on the world market price, said the premier.

"The paddy price problem has been made into a political issue, so everything is a political problem. But I think we all know what the truth is," said Mr Chuan.

Mr Chuan said the government had introduced more measures for solving the paddy price problem than past governments. More than 20,000 million baht had been spent already.

The government has also ordered the Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives [BAAC] to solve the problem by immediately granting loans to farmers who are in urgent need of money to pay debts.

"We have tried to solve every problem. I am confident that the prices of rice will eventually go up," said the premier.

Mr Chuan said the BAAC moves are intended to relieve the plight of farmers, but prices ultimately depend on the volume of exports.

"We have a lot of rice in stock. We have to speed up rice exports, especially low quality rice which is being handled by the Commerce Ministry," he said.

Asked if there were no orders at all from foreign countries which resulted in the shortfalls of rice exports, Mr Chuan said negotiations on rice purchases with foreign countries usually take place in May. But last year's incidents in May had interrupted negotiations.

However, the government had already evaluated the proposals made by rice millers and rice exporters and the Commerce Ministry has been ordered to implement the measures.

The setting up of the Risk Guarantee Fund has not been discussed by the government, said Mr Chuan.

The Prime Minister, when asked about the move by the Opposition to push for an extraordinary House session to grill the government, said a special session to discuss paddy prices is not necessary but in any case an extraordinary session would soon be called to debate the national budget.

Deputy Commerce Minister Chaiyot Sasomsap who accompanied the premier to Ayutthaya told the Bangkok Post that he would propose a new scheme to the government in which the government directly buys rice from farmers by cooperating with millers.

This measure would give farmers more choice over whether to mortgage or sell. The targeted area is under consideration.

Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon dismissed criticisms over the rice issue saying that the Opposition does not know as much as the government on how to shore up paddy prices.

Mr Uthai, who returned to Khon Kaen after inspecting the rice situation in the northeastern provinces, said yesterday that it was normal at the beginning of the season for paddy prices to be lower than the target price.

But he said that there was a trend towards the target price because of two measures set up by the government. The government had announced that it would buy more than 100,000 tons of broken rice and low quality rice from farmers and would also ease conditions for mortgaging rice.

Although foreign buyers did not buy Thai rice as expected because they felt that rice prices would plunge, the government was trying to shore up the prices by buying rice to put in stock, he said.

The committee which was sent to negotiate rice deals with foreign countries had confirmed to him that foreign countries needed Thai rice but were still not happy with the price, he said.

"We have to maintain the market strategy by not revealing our price for good quality rice. We have already told them the price of the low quality rice, but they are still hesitant because they think our rice price will decrease," Mr Uthai said.

Military To Purchase Surplus Paddy

BK2001022793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] Air Force Commander-in-Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kan Phimanthip yesterday confirmed that the military will help the Government shore up rice prices by buying paddy directly from farmers.

Commenting on Supreme Commander ACM Woranat Aphichari's statement to the same effect, ACM Kan said the Armed Forces had done it before and would do so again.

The military, which operates its own rice mills, will use its budget to buy paddy from farmers for consumption in the armed forces.

He denied reports that some members of the military-dominated Senate will sign the Opposition motion to force a special Parliament session to debate the issue. "There is nothing as such. We will not get involved in politics," the Air Force chief said.

Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan said the military will buy only a small quantity of paddy and in this regard the armed forces have always cooperated with the government.

The Government will allocate the Defence Ministry a budget to buy paddy. The same can be said of the Interior Ministry, Dr Amnuai said.

If the Defence Ministry does well then the Government may consider increasing its rice purchase budget.

The deputy premier said the rice the armed forces buy will be for internal consumption because he did not think the military had the necessary mechanism to sell paddy purchased from farmers on the market.

Deputy Prime Minister Bunchu Rotchanasatien affirmed that the military's move to buy paddy was a normal practice. "It's not necessary for the Government to contact the armed forces again to buy rice. If everyone lends a helping hand the situation will improve," Mr Bunchu said.

Meanwhile, Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon said he visited the Northeast and found that the price of glutinous rice, the staple food of the region, was higher than last year while the price of "mali" fragrant mali rice was already 4,500 baht a ton.

He also insisted that rice was being continuously exported to get rid of the huge amount left over from the 1991/92 harvest and cautioned that talk of surplus stocks would encourage foreign countries to keep down rice prices.

He played down the Opposition bid to convene a special House sitting, saying the Government had tried all the measures used by previous administrations to boost rice prices, and even reinforced them with some of its own "so explaining the situation would not be a problem".

Iran, Dubai, Mauritania Rice Sales Announced

BK2101105493 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 21 Jan 93

[Excerpt] The most important government measure for boosting local paddy price is the endeavor to sell rice abroad. The Commerce Ministry has sent five teams of trade representatives from the combined private sector and government officials to sell rice abroad. The third team, which went to Dubai and Iran on 11 January, has returned with successful sales of hundreds of thousands of tons of rice.

The deputy director of the Foreign Trade Department, who headed the team to Dubai, informed newsmen that Iran had agreed to buy about 300,000 tons of 100 percent rice, Dubai had agreed to buy 100,000 tons of sticky rice and fragrant rice, Yemen had agreed to buy 100,000 tons of 100 percent rice and steamed rice, and Mauritania had agreed to buy 40,000 tons of broken rice. [passage omitted]

Minister Calls for Consensus on AFTA, Rice

BK2201034993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Jan 93 p A3

[Excerpt] Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak yesterday called on government agencies to end their petty rivalries and internal bickering to enable Thailand to form a policy consensus on more pressing matters.

In particular, he referred to the topical issues of the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) and unstable rice prices.

Suphachai said that without a unified position on important policy issues, Thailand would be at a disadvantage in international trade negotiations.

"The conflicting positions within our government hinder our bargaining position in trade talks abroad," he said at the Economic Society of Thailand's annual meeting.

He asked for greater coordination from the agencies involved in the policy-making processes, including the ministries of Finance, Commerce and Industry as well as lower branches of government.

"These agencies should coordinate with each other more and come up with clear policy positions," he said. "It would allow us to speak with one voice."

In the past, the Thai government has presented conflicting views at important trade negotiations, notably at the Afta meeting last December, when Thailand brought to the table more than one list of items it wanted to exclude from the accelerated track of the regional tariff reduction scheme.

After the initial confusion over the lack of clear policy guidelines, Thailand and the rest of Asean were able to hammer out the final Afta agreement.

But the episode exposed the intense jockeying within governmental branches to establish their own parochial positions at international meetings.

Suphachai, who led the Thai delegation at the Afta talks and thwarted the more protectionist exclusion list presented by other agencies, called on his government counterparts to end their petty rivalries.

"We [the government] should be able to have a coherent and unified position like other countries do," he said. "We should be able to come up with one policy for the United States, one for Japan, one for the European Community and so on."

He said a similar conflict was also bubbling in the problematic area of rice prices. World prices have declined markedly, thereby creating severe discomfort for local farmers who have demanded government help.

But government policy on rice is far from clear. Suphachai urged the relevant agencies to resolve the problem quickly.

The Deputy Prime Minister also reiterated his proposal to create an Afta adjustment fund to assist injured parties during the transitional period of Asean's free trade plan to reduce intra-regional tariffs to 0-5 per cent in 15 years.

Suphachai has already asked Asean's private sector to contribute to the fund, which would then be allocated to companies most affected by reduced protection.

The governing Afta council has yet to deliberate over Suphachai's proposal but initial responses from the private sector have been lukewarm.

Pointing out that the successful completion of the Uruguay Round of international trade talks promised overall benefits for Thailand, Suphachai said he would still seek help for adversely affected products.

He also stressed that the government would maintain its efforts to spread income to the provinces, and warned that the effective management of natural resources such as water and energy sources, and the development of human capital, were becoming increasingly vital. [passage omitted]

Paper Praises Miyazawa's Response to Proposed Role

BK1901083393 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 19 Jan 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Miyazawa's Visit to Thailand"]

[Text] Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has concluded his visit to Thailand and other ASEAN countries. What have Thailand and those countries gained from the visit by the leader of the economic superpower? Thailand recognizes Japan as its economic big brother and has tried to encourage that country to assume a major role in the economic development of Southeast Asia, particularly Indochina, hoping that a Japanese role would contribute to economic prosperity in the region.

Miyazawa has responded well to the role proposed for Japan. In this context, Japan will increase funding for development of ASEAN for the next five years and will host a meeting for Indochinese development in Tokyo in the latter part of this year. This response to the call for a greater role is a typical, calculated move. Past Japanese assistance has resulted in the recipient countries and the donor country enjoying different degrees of economic prosperity.

There is the observation that Japan's attention to good relations with countries in this region amounts to a game it is playing in the international arena to enhance its bargaining power in the meeting of the G-7 countries. There is considerable truth to this observation, but such a game is normal in international politics. There is also the observation that Thailand's role of encouraging a greater Japanese role in Southeast Asia is a risky move, and Thailand would be blamed by countries in the region if such a Japanese role should backfire.

Perhaps out of historical concern, Miyazawa emphasized that Japan would definitely not become a military superpower. Such a promise is not enough; it is essential that the world not ask Japan to assume a military role which would encourage it to engage in a military buildup. The Japanese soldiers' participation in the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia is already no small risk.

A cynical look into what Thailand has gained from Miyazawa's visit would see that in the good relationship between the big and little brothers the big brother has not treated its little brother as an equal trading partner. Japan is the big brother whom Thai people have to appeal to open its market to Thai pork and whom Thai people are afraid to ask to open its rice market or to protect Thai workers who are being exploited and discriminated against by Japanese law. Japan is also the big brother whose mafia citizens have been earning a living unchallenged in the land of the little brother.

Former Premier Chatchai Preparing for Laos Trip

BK1801054893 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jan 93 p A3

[Text] Former prime minister Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, already accused by the government of trying to "steal the international show" through his connections in foreign affairs, leaves for Laos today on a three-day visit that is causing further disquiet.

Although Laos has so far reacted neutrally to Gen Chatchai's trip, Thai diplomats in the country are uneasy with the visit, according to diplomatic sources.

A diplomat, who asked not to be identified, said on Friday he had not been officially informed of the visit even though Chatchai is leader of the Chat Patthana, the second biggest party in the opposition bloc.

Chatchai's jaunt to Vientiane follows a two-day official visit by Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri last week.

Prasong, Phalang Tham MP from Bangkok, has been locked in verbal battle with Chatchai, who is seen as trying to play a leading role where issues of national foreign policy are concerned.

Asked if Chatchai would be met at the airport by Thai officials and whether they would facilitate his visit, the diplomat said, "maybe not".

According to Chatchai's issued itinerary, his time in Vientiane will be spent dogging Prasong's footsteps.

But the same diplomat doubted he would be able to fulfill his set schedule.

"It'll be interesting to see just how far he gets," he said.

According to the itinerary given to reporters, Chatchai plans a courtesy call on newly-elected Laotian President Nouhak Phoumsavan today and later hopes to see Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon.

He also plans to discuss economic investment with Laos' Vice Prime Minister Khamphoui Keoboualapha, according to the schedule.

Prasong also paid a courtesy call on Khamtai and Nouhak, and met his Laotian counterpart, Phoun Sipaseut for a closed session. Details of the talks were not released.

According to Chatchai's latest itinerary, the ex-prime minister will hold a "thank you" party for the Laotian government tomorrow evening at the Laos Peoples' Assembly building.

But according to his early itinerary, revealed to The Nation last week by a source. The party was supposed to be a "welcome" hosted by the Vientiane government.

There was no official explanation for the change.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek told a press conference in Vientiane at the end of Prasong's visit that the two countries had agreed to implement already-signed agreements and to strengthen ties.

It's questionable how Chatchai, who is no longer in government, can boost economic ties with Laos—a communist country with no private sector.

"Laos is wise enough to know with whom it should talk for the greatest benefit to both countries," the diplomat said.

Chatchai has championed a proposal for a second bridge across the Mekong River, and has said it should link Mukdahan province in Thailand and Sawannaket in Laos.

During last week's talks with Prasong, Laotian officials said they want to improve domestic infrastructure and support routes before they would consider a second bridge.

The first international bridge across the Mekong, named Friendship and funded by Australia, is now under construction but is not due to open until mid 1994.

An informed source said Laos had hinted during talks with Prasong that if a second bridge is eventually built, they preferred that it link Thailand's Nakhon Phanom province and the Ta Khaek area.

Diplomat sources, however, did not entirely rule out the possibility that Laos would reconsider the question of a second bridge during talks with Chatchai, who they speculated might offer a "beneficial proposal".

Chatchai visited Vietnam almost at the same time as Prasong in December and was given a red carpet welcome by Hanoi leaders. That trip became controversial when both sides traded sarcastic statements through the media.

Chatchai was in Tokyo late last month and was received by Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa when Chatchai proposed setting up of a fund to develop Indochina. Japan reportedly asked for concrete details of the proposed fund.

Prasong, without mentioning any name, accused "somebody" of grabbing the idea from the government's election platform.

The political arch rivals met briefly on Saturday at a hotel reception for visiting Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

The two made no attempt to talk—and in fact appeared to deliberately ignore each other.

Burma's SLORC Urged To Relinquish Power

BK1901040193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Only one sensible way ahead in Burma"]

[Text] The recent abrupt adjournment in Rangoon of the much publicised National Convention to lay down guidelines for a democratic constitution in Burma came as no surprise to the Burmese people at home and overseas. Six hundred and ninety-nine "handpicked" delegates attended the convention called by the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) that came to a halt on Monday of last week after only two days in session. Delegates from all regions of the country and 10 political parties including the National League for Democracy (NLD) which scored a landslide victory in the 1990 general elections, were told the convention would resume on February 1.

The Burmese people are sceptical of the outcome of the convention because none of the senior or popular politicians like former prime minister U Nu and Aung San Suu Kyi, presently under house arrest, were included in the line-up to help draft the charter. The military says Suu Kyi was ineligible to participate under the country's laws. Besides, they added, she was not an elected MP. Her many NLD members, under detention or having fled the country, also did not qualify. An organiser of Suu Kyi's party recently told an international news agency that the convention would have some worth if she were invited to attend. "She is a person Burmese want to lead us to democracy."

Also, the Burmese people believe, the chosen delegates have been intimidated by the military to toe the line in drawing up the constitution so that the latter will be assured of a dominant role in the future government. Reports from travellers who were recently in the country say that no decent Burmese, unless coerced to, would volunteer to be part of the charter committee. As one traveller puts it: "The duty would entail nothing but to read what's being dictated by the military, and I would have no part of it."

SLORC's reason for temporarily halting the convention according to a senior official, was to give the participants a chance to consult with "people at home." The official did not elaborate as to what the consultations should be about. However, the ruling regime made it explicitly clear on the first day of the session that the military must be able to retain its leading role in politics in the future governance of the country.

One of the reasons for wanting to hold on to power, one way or another, in a country of 41 million suppressed people is because the "military had the nation's interest at heart", SLORC claims, and was the only institution that could save Burma from possible disintegration. But after 30 years of misrule by the self-declared saviours of the Burmese nation the men in green have taken the country down the road to beggarhood. This is the same country that, although rich in human and natural resources, was declared a least developed country (LDC) by the United Nations.

If SLORC, which took over the country in a military coup in September 1988 after a bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations, really cares for the people and does not want to see the country disintegrate, it should aspire to the wishes of the populace by giving them what they want, which is democracy. This has not happened, and the year 1990 bears witness to the fact when the people were not allowed to form a multi-party democratic government after going to the polls.

Gen Saw Maung promised before the 1990 general elections that the people's wishes would be respected after free and fair elections were held. The free and fair polls did take place and the Nobel laureate Suu Kyi's NLD party grabbed more than 80 percent of the seats. Parties allied to the NLD took nearly 14 percent. One of them is the United Nationalities League for Democracy representing non-Burman ethnic minorities. The National Unity Party, closely aligned to the military, failed to win any seats.

These events clearly indicate that the Burmese people are fed up with military rule. So why is it the present junta is so adamant on clinging on to power taken away unlawfully from the people? Why is it that they are still carrying on this charade of playing the protectors of the people? All they have earned is the disgust and mistrust of their countrymen.

Burmese as Buddhists are a tolerant race more than willing to forgive—even though they might find it hard to forget—the military for the atrocities committed against men, women, children and monks after the 1988 popular uprising. Besides they need the military to protect the sovereignty of the nation, but not to play the role of masters and rulers.

As General Aung San, the hero of Burmese independence, once said in explaining his objectives for the army: "The Armed Forces are meant for this nation and this people, and it should be such a force having the honour and respect of the people. If instead the armed forces should come to be hated by the people, then the aims with which this army has been built up would have been in vain."

So instead of prolonging the agony of the Burmese people it is time the military turned over a new leaf and completely called off the so-called national convention. They should honour the people's popular mandate by freeing all elected politicians and allowing them to pick up where they left off after winning the May, 1990 elections to convene parliament. Let soldiers be for the people, by the people and of the people.

Joint Commission With Burma Established

BK2201045393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Thailand and Burma have agreed to set up a joint commission designed mainly to promote economic and trade cooperation.

The agreement was signed at Saranrom Palace last night by Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri and his Burmese counterpart Ohn Gyaw.

Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong said the move was not intended to bolster Burma's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). It is part of Thai policy to treat all countries equally, he said.

Thailand has a policy of "constructive engagement" with Burma.

Mr Ohn Gyaw, who arrived in Bangkok yesterday and was received by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai some three hours before signing the agreement, said the commission will help the development of both countries.

The commission will promote social and cultural aspects of bilateral co-operation.

Attache to Pakistan Accused of Smuggling

BK2101031193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] The army is investigating allegations that the Thai military attache in Pakistan has been involved in antiques smuggling, spokesman Col Palhangkun Krahan said yesterday.

The Thai Ambassador in Islamabad, Mr Chaloem Achari, told the BANGKOK POST by telephone that Col Somsak Skunthong was discovered by Pakistani customs late on Tuesday afternoon to be the sender of a shipment of antiques bound for London. Mr Chaloem said he despatched a report on the incident to the Foreign Ministry on Tuesday night.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said the Director of the Army Intelligence Department has been asked to investigate. Col Somsak has served as military attache at the Thai embassy in Islamabad for the past four years.

AFP reported from Islamabad that five Buddha statues and a stone plate engraving of an animal god were discovered. The official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) described the statues as "invaluable antique treasure" dating back to the Gandhara civilisation.

Pakistani customs officials alleged that he had exploited his status by booking valuable antiques as "personal effects", because an international convention forbids the checking of diplomatic goods. Official sources said customs authorities, acting on a tip-off, obtained Foreign Office intervention to open the containers. After the recovery of the antiques, the diplomat alleged that a local forwarding agent had used him for shipment of the goods to London promising 80,000 rupees (about 76,000 baht) for the job.

Kamran Gul of agents Express Movers was taken into custody, official said. But Col Somsak could not be arrested because of his diplomatic immunity.

Army Chief Agrees With Prosecution

BK2201031193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Jan 93 p A1

[Text] Army Commander in Chief Wimon Wongwanit says the military won't stand in the way of an investigation into a Thai military attache's alleged attempt to smuggle antiques out of Pakistan.

"The case is being investigated. If he is found guilty everything will proceed according to law," Gen Wimon said yesterday. "But at present, we don't know whether he's guilty or not."

Col [Colonel] Somsak Skunthong, attached to the Thai embassy in Islamabad for the past four years, was held by Pakistani customs officials on Tuesday after five statues of Buddha and a stone plate of an engraving of an animal god were found in his luggage at Islamabad airport. Somsak has diplomatic immunity under international convention.

The official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN report described the relics allegedly found in Somsak's luggage as "invaluable antique treasure" from the Gandhara civilization, and said they had been stolen from a museum and could have been replaced by fakes.

Wimon, asked about the selection of military attaches, said the military had made the selection carefully.

"This person [Somsak] is a good man," Wimon said. "But he might have made a mistake after getting in with bad friends."

The army chief said he had no intention of defending Somsak and insisted that the case would be pursued according to law.

However, if Somsak had not yet been detained, he would prefer that the attache be returned to Thailand and the case be investigated here.

"Otherwise the country's and the armed forces reputation would be tainted," he added.

Army secretary Lt Gen Anuson Kritsanaserani said yesterday a decision would be made later on whether Somsak would be brought home if investigators found a prima facie case existed against him, or whether to let him face trial in a Pakistani court.

Vietnam

Do Muoi Addresses Party Plenum Closing

BK2001144593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 17 Jan 93

["Full text" of speech by party General Secretary Do Muoi at the closing session of the seventh party Central Committee's recent fourth plenum; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear comrade advisers and members of the party Central Committee:

After 10 days of intense work, today the fourth plenum of the party Central Committee has fulfilled its duty. We must attribute the success of this plenum to the fact that we successfully mobilized at a relatively early date a large number of cadres to prepare for the plenum with wisdom and enthusiasm.

All organs and sectors concerned have satisfactorily drafted various documents to be submitted to the plenum. Apart from providing close guidance, the Political Bureau has repeatedly discussed and promptly presented its views on many important issues to be included in the draft documents.

We have also sought consultation with many elderly comrades and specialists to supplement and further diversify the contents of various draft resolutions. This is a good method of doing work that should be promoted to ensure that all resolutions of the party are closely linked to daily life and reflect the people's will and aspirations.

Obviously, apart from good preparation, the decisive factor in the success of the plenum is the fact that all Central Committee members and those comrades attending the plenum as guests have been able to understand profoundly the importance of the issues that have been set forth for discussion. They have discussed these issues heatedly and made many suggestions, thus demonstrating their concern for and sense of responsibility to the party, people, and country.

Based on experience acquired from previous plenums, the party Central Committee is familiarizing itself step by step with the new, intensive, and effective method of doing work. That experience shows that with adequate preparation, in each party Central Committee plenum, we can hold debates and enforce decisions on many issues, especially those that are interrelated.

Through debates, our plenum has reached a high identity of views on the following major points:

First, stemming from the nature of our state and regime being all by human beings and all for human happiness, we consider human beings as the decisive factor, the most substantial driving power, and the creative subject of all sources of material and spiritual wealth of society. We also consider human happiness as the loftiest aim of our struggle.

In view of this, to make our people prosperous, our country powerful, and our society civilized, efforts must be exerted to care for, foster, and develop the human factor to a high degree, especially among youths and teenagers—the pillars of the country and those who will take over the cause of socialist construction from their fathers and brothers and advance it to victory. That is a fundamental and pressing issue of our revolution.

This basic viewpoint should be thoroughly perceived in all domains—political, economic, cultural, and social—and manifested in every aspect of the work of all sectors, echelons, and mass and social organizations, as well as in the daily activities of every family.

Second, along with developing our economy and consolidating our national defense and security, we must, as an immediate step, pay attention to building social infrastructure such as educational, medical, social insurance, and population and family planning establishments, and public utility projects. We must also pay attention to building material bases along with fostering cultural development to create a firm moral foundation for our people and regime.

Efforts must be made to comprehensively develop every human being, to build an equitable society, to preserve and to develop the tradition of charity and justice of our ancestors, to acquire the quintessence of mankind, and to associate ourselves with the civilization of our age, while constantly manifesting Vietnamese national characteristics.

We must care for both today and tomorrow. The previous generation has struggled for its own happiness and the happiness of its children. The next generation must continue and develop the achievements of its predecessor. As such, our nation will develop and perpetuate in independence, freedom, and happiness and we will work toward making our people prosperous, our country powerful, and our society civilized.

This is the immediate and long-term lofty ideal and lofty aim that our entire party, people, and Army must certainly strive to achieve at all costs. This is also the path on which Vietnam is advancing to socialism with the natural superiority of a new regime.

Third, in order to gradually implement the aforementioned targets, we have to outline a correct line, policies, and measures. The party plenum discussed and pointed out that we need to be able to do more in the social domain even while our nation is still poor and facing many difficulties to overcome, and when our budget is still tight. The main thing is that we know how to do it.

Stemming from the viewpoint that national construction is the undertaking of all people and investing national budget resources for human development is necessary and important, we must practice thrift and fight corruption and lavish spending in order to have more funds to spend. However, on the other hand, the most important thing is the correct method and policy of mobilizing resources from all individuals, people, and society. Truly speaking, the national budget is the money contributed by the people; therefore, it belongs to the public. Even when we ask for a loan, the public will have to repay the debt. Of course, the party must provide guidance, and the state must manage so that the entire people can unitedly and determinedly build the country, making history. Thoroughly understanding this viewpoint, we can find a suitable solution for solving social issues, developing the combined strength of the country, and implementing the motto: The state and people work together.

The encouraging thing is that despite many difficulties, our renovation undertaking in the past years has scored many important achievements. The economy has encountered new developments, allowing us to pay more attention to social issues, to accelerate educational services, to protect and to improve people's health, to develop culture and family planning work, to create jobs, to provide care to the needy, to repay favors to people who rendered meticulous service to the nation, and to care for teenagers and children. Therefore, the discussion and issuing of a resolution on social issues by the party Central Committee are timely and meet more favorable conditions than before.

From the major aforementioned viewpoints, the party plenum issued resolutions on education and training, culture and literature, protecting and improving public health, population and family planning, and youth work with a concrete direction, targets, and measures in each area. Here, I do not want to repeat that.

The party plenum contributed many opinions to supplement the assessment report on the leadership of the party Political Bureau and Secretariat after the seventh national party congress. The Political Bureau welcomes the opinions contributed from the plenum. It records the opinions on developing good points and correcting shortcomings, and considers other opinions on upgrading leadership capacity. Together with the party Central Committee, it will strive to satisfactorily implement the resolution of the seventh national party congress.

Dear comrades, having good resolutions is the first prerequisite. But the important point is the organization and guidance for executing the resolutions. Success or failure will be decided in the execution stage. And this is our weakest stage, which we must overcome.

First of all, we need to change the way of imparting the resolutions. We do not have to continuously study to understand the resolutions. But together with quickly conveying the spirit and content of the resolutions, we must immediately establish plans and programs of action to gradually implement the resolutions.

Party Central Committee members, party committee members at all levels, and party and youth union cadres, especially party committees of related sectors, must firmly comprehend the spirit and content of the resolutions. From that basis, they review their responsibility, analyze the situation, and quickly study to establish plans and programs to concretely and practically solve each issue, and broadly seek opinions from the public.

On the basis of forming the contents of the resolutions of the second, third, and fourth plenums into a united and uniform program of action to outline work priority, from the most urgent that needs to be done quickly to more long-term and fundamental work to proceed according to the plan and set the deadline for each task, we must always confirm that economic development is the center and building a clean and strong party is a factor in deciding victory.

Conveying and executing resolutions can be combined with the year-end review of work and planning of socioeconomic duties for the new year. This should be done in a practical, efficient way while trying to avoid doing only formalities.

Particularly the culture and arts sector should have plans for organizing meetings to profoundly review achievements and negative aspects in the past, to set forth concrete measures, to strive to increase good work, to quickly correct and to overcome shortcomings and misunderstandings, and to strengthen the organization and cadres to create new development steps for creative activities of culture and arts. At the same time, it should analyze sabotage activities of hostile forces in culture and arts to positively and efficiently counter their conspiracies and tricks.

Party organizations in government organs should urgently provide guidance in the concretization of resolutions and encourage compiling necessary draft laws to quickly submit to the National Assembly for approval. They should urgently introduce decisions on practical policies on major tasks which need to be completed early in 1993 in the domains of culture, education, public health, and population and family planning. They should issue guidance on national budget spending for cultural and social activities in conformity with viewpoints and guidelines set forth in plenum resolutions.

Assessing and reviewing work must be satisfactorily done to quickly draw more experience. The party, youth union, Fatherland Front, and mass organizations should have programs and plans to enhance the role of the Fatherland Front and their own organizations. They should actively and closely go to grass-roots levels to motivate the public to broadly raise public campaigns to implement party resolutions and state laws and policies and to cause new thinking, working, and solving of social problems according to renovation spirit.

The public always looks at the action of party members to evaluate them as well as to determine their own attitude and action. Therefore, in order to satisfactorily implement the plenum resolutions, all cadres and party members must be serious and exemplary in their actions. Every comrade must have a program and plan to improve knowledge and be tenacious in studying. Because only when you consistently improve your knowledge can you execute a leadership role.

Cadres and party members must be exemplary in protecting and upgrading their health, in their material and cultural life, family planning, and bringing up children, as well as all social activities. Any incorrect actions in law abiding or observing regulations by cadres and party members will damage the party's reputation and negatively affect the implementation of party resolutions.

Every party member must realize that party resolutions are compulsory for them. Therefore, he must strictly observe resolutions and set a good example for other people to follow.

On the new year, I wish party advisers, party Central Committee members, and all comrades good health, happiness, and more achievements in your work.

I declare a close to the forth plenum of the seventh party Central Committee.

Premier Views 1993 Economic Prospects, Challenges

BK2101111593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 15 Jan 93

["Talk of the Week highlighting the talk by Premier Vo Van Kiet to mass media"]

[Text] On the 1993 New Year and prior to the lunar new year festival, Premier Vo Van Kiet has contacted and compared notes with the mass media. The premier and the people from the mass media have found a common voice. As reported to the National Assembly's second session late in 1992, Premier Vo Van Kiet repeated: In 1992 we obtained rather comprehensive economic achievements. It was the first year that we fulfilled and overfulfilled major plans and norms. The prime minister said that it was the result of many factors accumulating over the last few years. It shows the great efforts of the people from all walks of life, the effectiveness of the party's renovation line, and the success of the Open Door diplomatic policies.

Premier Vo Van Kiet maintained that new junctures have opened up in all fields of social life in spite of difficulties and mistakes. He introduced the government's action program in the new term, including programs of priority concern for 1993 which influence the program for production development, investment in buildings and material-technical infrastructure, financial and monetary stabilization, controlling and checking inflation and programs on cultural, social and educational development.

Premier Vo Van Kiet said: I affirm that each region and each locality in our country has the potential to develop in these fields. There is no locality that has only difficulties that cannot be (?solved).

According to the prime minister, the Vietnamese state has defined three major economic zones to be built under the socioeconomic development strategy till the year 2000. They are the Northern Economic Zone, including the Hanoi capital, the port city of Haiphong and the Quang Ninh mining area; the Central Zone, including Da Nang city and many economic establishments in the Central Highlands and the coastal provinces; and the Southern Economic Zone including Ho Chi Minh City, Binh Hoa, and Vung Tau. He stressed those zones were developed in order to serve not only themselves but the country as a whole.

It was the first time in many years that the government annual action has been made public and openly discussed from the national assembly forum to meetings with the mass media, the people's forum, who are paying attention to big plans and norms. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet reminded people to [words indistinct] and preserve the peaceful life of the people. All these must be done at the grassroots level, he said.

Lao Minister on Vietnamese Killed in Cambodia

BK2001150593 Hanoi VNA in English 1418 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 20—In reply to the letter of Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam dated December 30, 1992 on the killing of 12 Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia on December 27, 1992 in Kompong Chhnang province by the Democratic Cambodia faction, Phoun Sihseuth, foreign minister of Laos wrote:

"This is a brazen violation of the principles of the united nations charter and of the universal declaration and other international documents on human rights, as well as the right to individual safety in Article 5 of the International Convention on the abolition of race discrimination in any form. The above said act is also a flagrant violation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia and the attached documents. The government of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos consider this act as a challenge to peace and stability in Cambodia".

China Border Smuggling Called 'Economic Sabotage'

BK2101080193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Jan 93 p 5

[Article by Jacques Bakaert under the "Eye on Indochina" rubric: "Vietnam and China: Towards Peaceful Coexistence"]

[Text] Hanoi—Vietnam did not expect much from the recent visit of Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng. "We heard wonderful words, but little else," said a Foreign Ministry official, who maintained that Hanoi was not disappointed by the poor outcome. China is not a direct threat to Vietnam, not today. But Beijing has great regional ambitions. The question of the South China Sea, or the Eastern Sea as it is called in Vietnam, remains a potential source of explosive problems between the two countries.

Propagandists from the Communist Party of Vietnam still warn the public of the danger of the so-called "peaceful means" used by the undefined "imperialist enemies of the West" to subvert the socialist regime. The army daily newspaper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN (People's Army) seems to specialise in such a propaganda campaign. But very few people in Vietnam believe that there is any real threat from the West. What Vietnam wants from the West, ASEAN and Japan is pretty simple: Investments, jobs, money and technology. And investments by the former imperialists and other colonialists are more than welcome. The greatest threat, they say, comes from China. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, some Vietnamese leaders thought that China would replace Moscow as the source of special assistance, but Beijing was most reluctant to do so.

"The relations are fairly good, China gave Vietnam some spare parts for the army, but we shall not see a resurgence of the 'fraternal' relations that existed in the Fifties," said a senior Russian diplomat with long experience in both countries.

"There is no doubt that China does not want to see a strong Vietnam," said an expert at the Institute of International Relations, the think tank of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry. "The constant and massive smuggling of Chinese goods from China is a form of economic sabotage," said a military source.

China is probably learning what the Japanese already know that where there are Chinese goods, there is the Chinese border, remarked another official. Vietnamese experts are convinced that the smuggling is encouraged by Beijing in order to destabilise the local market and endanger Vietnamese industries. Several small factories in the South, particularly in Ho Chi Minh City, have been affected by the flood of cheap Chinese products.

"China is slowly emerging as an economic power," said a Vietnamese expert.

"Neither Japan nor South Korea or Taiwan can play a major political role in our region," commented Mr Nguyen Ngoc Dien, director of the Major Power Research Department of the Institute of International Relations (IIR).

China's desire to play a larger political role in the region explains why Beijing is still an important factor in the Cambodian drama, said another Vietnamese expert. Cambodia is important to Beijing, as it is to Tokyo, because it is a kind of rehearsal ground for the use of political influence.

"Of course in the context of the end of the Cold War, Cambodia has no special strategic role anymore, but China sees Cambodia as a training ground for the role it wants to play in Asia in the future," said the expert Dien, who said: "China cannot afford to relinquish its role in Cambodia. For this reason it will never abandon the Rhmer Rouge, a fact that makes the present situation in Cambodia much more complex than it should be."

China is carefully watching Japan as Tokyo tries to have a political role in Cambodia. China knows that the United States is retreating from the region, that the United Nations is only a temporary player. China, they say in Hanoi, is also ill at ease with the improvement of relations between Vietnam and the US. China is probably a bit uncomfortable with the new American administration. Many Vietnamese officials think the Bush administration was too lenient with Beijing, especially in view of the treatment Hanoi received from Washington.

They also remember a statement made by Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping a few years ago that seventy per cent of foreign influence in Vietnam should be from Beijing. "China," our source concluded, "is working on its own version of the new world order, a world in which Beijing would play a crucial role, in which China would become a world superpower."

"China is a very large country, with a huge population, so we find it perfectly normal that China wants to have a global role, a global strategy," said Nguyen Ngoc Dien.

According to Vietnamese experts, China will seek to expand its role in Cambodia because it considers Cambodia part of its "zone of influence." China's new ambitions, they say, places Vietnam in a very sensitive position. If China wants to expand its influence, it cannot go North, or East where it will face Japan, or West where India is too big a place to deal with. What remains is the Southern way, the traditional route of Chinese commercial expansion, say Vietnamese historians and policy specialists.

Who stands in the way of China? Only Vietnam stands in the way of China. No one expects China to invade Vietnam, of course. But Vietnamese officials are wondering what will happen to China after the death of Deng Xiaoping.

"After Deng we do not see any Chinese leader strong enough to command the attention of the entire country, to be capable of ruling all of China," several Vietnamese sources said. "China is always unpredictable, it is a land of great and frequent turmoil."

Faced with political unrest, Chinese leaders are likely to take an adventurous course of action to divert public attention from more pressing domestic matters, say Vietnamese officials. The most logical place for China to do such things is the Spratly Islands, they say. An official source in Hanoi claimed that there had been a report in the SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, quoting senior Chinese officials as saying that if Vietnam refused to solve the question by peaceful means, in 1997 China would try to take over the rest of the Spratly Islands by military means.

The Chinese Navy, which has been modernised since the early Eighties, is much more powerful than the modest Vietnamese Navy. Senior diplomatic sources in Hanoi said that the strategic role of Vietnam should not be minimised by the rest of the world in the future. "It is important to have Vietnam as a kind of determined buffer, just in case," a Western diplomat said.

Vietnamese, too, see their country as having a special role in the future and hope to receive support in connection with their sensitive location.

"Only an independent and strong Vietnam can offer some kind of buffer, some real obstacle to Chinese ambition," said a Foreign Ministry source.

"We should, of course, never do anything crazy toward China," said an expert of the IIR. "We want good relations with Beijing. The great hope of Vietnam is that China in the future will abide by the principles of peaceful coexistence."

"China needs stability as much as we do," noted a source at the Foreign Ministry.

"As far as we know the Chinese population is satisfied with the pace of reform in their country," said Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co. "It is a positive factor."

Government Decree on Compulsory AIDS Testing

BK1801132093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0949 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] HANOI, Jan 18 (AFP)—Foreign residents of Vietnam will face compulsory AIDS testing under a government decree published Monday that also targets prostitutes, drug addicts, prisoners and homosexuals.

The December 18 decree, published by the semi-official VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW, is aimed to control the explosion of aquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) that has engulfed nearby countries such as Thailand. The decree stipulates that carriers of the AIDS virus will be refused permission to marry, and that a spouse's positive test result can be considered grounds for divorce. Foreigners who register to live for more than three months in Vietnam will be tested for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The decree comes despite warning from international specialists at a conference here last month that treating AIDS as a foreign phenomenon could harm efforts to prevent its inevitable spread inside the country.

Though Vietnam has reported only 79 cases of HIV, health officials acknowledge that the true number of carriers is unknown as only 140,000 people have been tested. Vietnam so far has no facilities to test blood used in transfusions for HIV, according to Le Dinh Hong, vice chairman of the national AIDS committee.

Hoa Binh Power Plant Starts Fifth Generator

BK1901144193 Hanoi VNA in English 1406 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 19—The fifth generator unit of the Hoa Binh hydro-electric power plant began generating electricity at 10:15 hrs today.

In the first hours of its operating, it achieved a capacity of 200 mw compared to its design capacity of 240 mw. The Hoa Binh power plant, the biggest in Vietnam to date, is designed to have eight such generator units.

Premier Pays New Year Visit to War Veterans

BK1701145293 Hanoi VNA in English 1444 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 17—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet this morning paid a working and New Year visit to the Vietnam War Veterans' Association on the occasion of Tet, the Vietnamese Traditional lunar New Year festival.

Senior Lt. Gen. Tran Van Quang, chairman of the association which now has more than 700,000 members throughout the country, reported to the prime minister on the general situation and activities of the association since its foundation in February 1990. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet welcomed the association's initial achievements and stressed its responsibility in helping war veterans in the present atage of the country.

Envoys Attend Tet Function

BK1801142593 Hanoi VNA in English 1420 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 18—The Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organizations has held a get-together with the staff of the Southeast Asian embassies in Hanoi on the occasion of Tet, the Vietnamese traditional Lunar New Year festival. Among those present were ambassadors and charge d'affaires a.i. and members of the embassies of Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, and the Philippines, and a delegation of the Australia-Vietnam Friendship Association.

Mr. Nguyen Van Thanh, vice president of the Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization, and Mr Nguyen Trung Hieu, acting president of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity With Asian-African peoples, were present. The function was enlivened by a performance of traditional arts items of Vietnam and other countries in the region.

Do Muoi Makes Tet Visit to Haiphong

BK2101111793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 20 Jan 93

[Text] On the occasion of Tet, the traditional lunar new year festival, Party General Secretary Do Muoi on Tuesday visited the port city of Haiphong. He was accompanied by Dao Duy Tung, secretary of the Party Central Committee.

In his new year visit to the headquarters of the Navy, party leader Do Muoi had a phone conversation with soldiers stationed on the Truong Sa Island. He said that the whole nation are turning their thoughts toward the [word indistinct] who are on duty on the faraway island full of difficulties. Also on this occasion, Madame Nguyen Thi Dinh, vice president, visited and presented gifts to the center for social welfare, centers for the lonely elderly and disadvantaged children and psychological center in Hanoi.

Tet Clelebrations for Foreign Organizations Noted

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[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 21 - A get-together was organized here Tuesday for the staff of the Russian Embassy and other Russian representations in Hanoi on the occasion of Tet, the Vietnamese traditional lunar New Year festival. The hosts were the Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Associations (VUPSFA) and the Vietnamese-Soviet Friendship Association. The guests included Russian Ambassador to Vietnam R. Khamidulin.

The next day, VUPSFA and the Vietnam-Sweden Friendship Association and the Olof Palme Institute for Children's Health Care jointly gave another lunar New Year get-together to Swedish experts who are working in Vietnam. It was attended by representatives of the Swedish Embassy in Hanoi and the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), and the Swedish Save the Children (Radda Barnen) [sentence as received].